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ABSTRACT

This report compares Hispanic children with non-Hispanic white and black children in regard to income and several factors related to the poverty of children, including: education of parents; age of parents; family size; and hours of work. Based on Census Bureau data, the report consists of six chapters which present the following: (1) introduction; (2) a summary of findings; (3) a discussion of poverty among Hispanic children in 1983; (4) an examination of factors related to poverty among Hispanic children, 1975-83; (5) analysis of earnings of parents of Hispanic children; and (6) a discussion of government transfer payments to Hispanic children. In 1983, it is reported, a total of 2.16 million Hispanic children (38.2%) had money income below Census Bureau poverty thresholds. The 1983 poverty rate of Hispanic children was more than 2.5 times that of non-Hispanic white children, but about one-fifth below that of non-Hispanic black children. Analyses of poverty trends for 1975-1983 are said to reveal that the number of poor Hispanic children climbed by almost 53 percent, and the proportion of all poor children who were Hispanic rose from 13.5 to 16 percent. In 1983, the latter figure declined to 15.6 percent, but the poverty status of Hispanic children worsened again in 1984. Contributing to the high rates of poverty among Hispanic children are very low levels of high school completion by their parents, a relatively large number of children per family, an above-average share of children being raised by a single parent, usually their mother, and a relatively large proportion of children with young parents. Appendices provide a discussion of problems in defining ethnic origin, some additional data, and information about the revisions in 1983 Hispanic poverty data announced by the Census Bureau in August, 1985. Many statistical tables and charts are presented throughout the report. (KH)

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HISPANIC CHILDREN IN POVERTY

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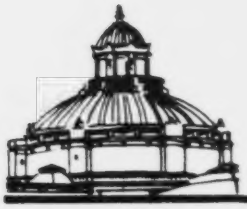

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ABSTRACT

This report examines the incidence and severity of money income poverty among Hispanic children and presents trend analysis for 1975-1983. It compares Hispanic children to non-Hispanic black and non-Hispanic white children in regard to several factors related to poverty, such as presence of father, marital status of mother, family size, age of parent, high school completion by parent, hours worked, and wages received by parents.

This report was designed and written by a group of four analysts: Vee Burke, Thomas Gabe, Jeanne Griffith, and Richard Rimkunas. All are members of the Education and Public Welfare (EPW) Division of CRS except for Dr. Griffith, a demographer in the Government Division.

Thomas Gabe and Richard Rimkunas provided the basic income, demographic, and schooling data on which the report is based by analyzing Census Bureau public use tapes covering the years 1975-1983 (from the Current Population Surveys made each March, 1976-1984). They also prepared the computer graphics.

Dr. Griffith wrote chapters 3 and 4. Mr. Gabe wrote chapter 5. Mrs. Burke directed the project, wrote chapters 1, 2, and 6, and edited the report.

Helpful comments on drafts of the report were made by CRS analysts Kenneth Cahill, Richard Hobbie, and Wayne Riddle, all of the EPW Division.

Deborah C. Jackson directed secretarial production of the report. Text and tables were typed by Mary Anderson, Flora Dean, and Deborah Jackson (EPW Division), and by Daphne Bigger (Government Division), all of whom the authors wish to thank.

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CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF PAPER

NOTE: This paper supplements the Congressional Research Service (CRS) part of the study on poor children, Children in Poverty, which was issued in May 1985 by the House Committee on Ways and Means. 1/ This new report examines the incidence and severity of poverty among Hispanic children in 1983 and presents trend analysis for 1975-1983. The report is based on Census Bureau public use tapes of the March supplements to the Current Population Survey, 1976-1984 (covering 1975-1983 income). It does not provide analysis of 1984 income nor incorporate 1983 data revisions announced by the Census Bureau in late August 1985. The revisions in the 1983 poverty rates for children, described in Appendix D, were not statistically significant. These revisions reflect new survey weighting procedures for estimating the Spanish population, which were not applied to earlier years covered by this study, and thus, would have made comparisons difficult. For details, see Appendix C.

The incidence of poverty among Hispanic children in 1984 was 84 percent above that among all U.S. children. Out of every 100 related Hispanic children, 2/ 38.7 lived in families whose money income fell short of their poverty threshold, compared with 21 per 100 in the total population of related children.

The poverty status of Hispanic children relative to that of other children worsened in 1984. Although the poverty rate for all children decreased in 1984, the poverty rate among Hispanic children rose by one percentage point, almost wiping out a 1983 decline of 1.2 percentage points. The 1984 rate was, thus, only slightly below the 1982 peak rate of 38.9. 3/ Hispanic poverty rates

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1/ The Congressional Research Service wrote Part I and Appendixes A-I of this study (Ways and Means Committee Print, 99-8). The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) wrote Parts II and III and Appendixes J and K.

2/ A related child is a person under 18 years old who lives with other family members and is not the head of a family nor married to a family head.

3/ Highest Hispanic child poverty rate recorded since Census Bureau began the data series in 1973.

increased in 1984 for children in both family types--female-headed and male-present. (See box.)

Hispanic children were the only children for whom the Census Bureau reported a 1984 rise in poverty rates, whereas, in 1983, poverty rates had declined for Hispanic children 4/ and for non-Hispanic black children, but had increased for non-Hispanic whites. The incidence of poverty among related non-Hispanic white children declined in 1984 for the first time since 1978, to 13.1 percent. The poverty rate for related non-Hispanic black children, which had declined in 1983 to 46.1 percent, held at that level. 5/

4/ The 1984 increase and the 1983 decrease were not statistically significant.

5/ All 1984 data are from the Census Bureau report, Money Income and Poverty Status of Families and Persons in the United States: 1984. Consumer Income Series P-60. No. 149, issued August 27, 1985. The all-child poverty rate for Hispanics, not immediately available for 1984, would be somewhat higher than the related child rate. The former rate includes teenagers who are family heads or their spouses, as well as children who live as unrelated individuals.

SUMMARY DATA: RELATED HISPANIC, NON-HISPANIC, AND ALL CHILDREN

	Number poor (thousands)		Percent poor	
	1983	1984	1983	1984
Hispanic children				
Total	2,251 a/	2,317	37.7 a/	38.7
In female-headed families	1,018 a/	1,093	70.6	71.0
In male-present families	1,233 a/	1,223	27.2 a/	27.5
Non-Hispanic white children				
Total	6,438	5,828	14.4	13.1
In female-headed families	2,457	2,332	41.9	39.7
In male-present families	3,981	3,495	10.3	9.1
Non-Hispanic black children				
Total	4,194	4,277	46.1	46.1
In female-headed families	3,141	3,196	68.3	66.1
In male-present families	1,053	1,082	23.4	24.4
All children				
Total	13,449 a/	12,929	21.8 a/	21.0
In female-headed families	6,758 a/	6,772	55.5 a/	54.0
In male-present families	6,691 a/	6,157	13.5 a/	12.5

a/ Revised by Census Bureau, August 1985.

In 1983, an Hispanic child was about 2.6 times as likely as a non-Hispanic white child to be poor, but a non-Hispanic black child was about one-fifth more likely than an Hispanic child to be poor. Even though non-Hispanic black children had overall higher poverty rates than Hispanic children, an Hispanic child was more likely to be poor than a black child who lived in the same category of family--female-headed or male-present. 6/ The reason that non-Hispanic black children had higher overall poverty rates than Hispanic children was that a much larger proportion of the black children lived in families without a father.

6/ Male-present families are primarily two-parent families, but include families in which a father is raising children alone.

From 1976 to 1982, an extra 9 children per 100 Hispanic children were added to the poverty population, as their incidence of poverty climbed from 30 per 100 to almost 39. Reflecting both higher poverty rates and growth in underlying population, the Hispanic share of the total poor child population climbed from 14.1 to 16 percent in those years.

The Children in Poverty study examined poverty of children overall and by race, white and black. It also provided some summary data about poverty among Hispanics. For several reasons, it is useful to supplement that general report with an examination by ethnicity to depict the phenomenon of poverty among Hispanic children:

--As noted above, the rates of poverty among Hispanic children are very high, exceeding those of non-Hispanic black and white children for each type of family, female-headed and male-present.

--Hispanic children account for almost one-sixth of the Nation's poor children, 2.2 million out of 13.8 million in 1983.

--The population of Hispanic children is continuing to expand, unlike that of non-Hispanic black and white children. Thus, the population of Hispanic children climbed by 0.7 million, or 15 percent, from 1975 to 1983. In the same years the population of non-Hispanic children declined by 3.6 million, or 6 percent.

--Hispanics are a sizable minority of the population of some States. For example, Hispanics in 1980 accounted for 31.5 percent of the child population of California and 22.1 percent of the child population of Texas.

To study the poverty of Hispanic children in detail and to show their economic situation in relation to that of non-Hispanic children, it is necessary to treat ethnic and racial designations as mutally exclusive. Thus, this report subtracts Hispanic children from the white and black child population, with which they are merged in standard Census Bureau tabulations.

The basic method of this study is to compare Hispanic children with non-Hispanic white and black children in regard to income and to several factors

that the Children in Poverty study found related to poverty of children, including: education of parents, age of parents, family size, and hours of work.

This study deals only with income poverty, the condition of having income below the official poverty threshold. It does not examine a range of other kinds of poverty sometimes cited by economists, such as "education poverty," health poverty," or "transportation poverty," nor does it discuss the possible effects of income poverty upon a child's health, education, aspirations, work ethnic, and the like.

The report is based on Census bureau data (Current Population Surveys, March, 1976-1984). These surveys cover the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the 50 States and the District of Columbia and members of the armed forces who live off post or with their families on post. In these surveys children are classified as Hispanic if their parent declared them to be Mexican-American, Chicano, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish. For a discussion of the problems in defining ethnic origin, see Appendix A.

All tables in the report were prepared by the Congressional Research Service. All cash income data were derived from reports made about their previous year's pre-tax cash income by respondents to the March Current Population Survey (CPS). The Census Bureau notes that household surveys tend to underestimate the number of income recipients and/or the amount of income received. The CPS estimate of aggregate wages and salaries in 1983 was 99 percent of an independent estimate; the CPS estimate of federally aided cash welfare was 79 percent of the independent estimate. 7/

7/ U.S. Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. Money Income and Poverty Status of Families and Persons in the United States, 1984. Series P-60, no. 149, p. 37.

The balance of the report is organized as follows:

- o Summary findings
- o Poverty among Hispanic children in 1983
- o Examination of factors related to poverty among children: 1975-1983
- o Earnings of parents of Hispanic children
- o Government transfers to Hispanic children

Appendixes provide a discussion of problems in defining ethnic origin, some additional data, and information about the revisions in 1983 Hispanic poverty data announced by the Census Bureau in August 1985.

CHAPTER 2. SUMMARY FINDINGS

The 1983 poverty rate of Hispanic children was more than 2.5 times that of non-Hispanic white children, but about one-fifth below that of non-Hispanic black children.

Among Hispanic children, 38.2 percent lived in families whose money income was below the poverty threshold in 1983, compared with 14.9 percent of non-Hispanic white children and 46.6 percent of non-Hispanic black children.

TABLE 2.1. Family Composition and Incidence of Poverty by Family Type, Race/Ethnicity: 1983 a/

	Hispanic children		Non-Hispanic black children		Non-Hispanic white children	
	Percent of all children	Poverty rate	Percent of all children	Poverty rate	Percent of all children	Poverty rate
In female-headed families	23	70.5	47.9	68.3	12.5	42.8
In male-present families	77	27.3	52.1	23.6	87.5	10.3
All children	100	38.2	100	46.6	100	14.9

a/ Table is based on Census Bureau's original 1983 data and refers to all children under 18, not merely to related children.

Even though the incidence of poverty overall was higher among non-Hispanic black children, an Hispanic child was more likely to be poor than a black child who lived in the same category of family--female-headed or male-present. Overall poverty rates were lower among Hispanic children than among black children because a much larger proportion of the Hispanic children lived in families with a male present. These two-parent (and single male-headed) families have much lower poverty rates than female-headed families. (Table 2.1)

Compared with the average U.S. child, an Hispanic child in 1983 was about 72 percent more likely to be poor, but the amount by which the per capita money income of poor Hispanic families with children fell short of the poverty threshold 8/ was about six percent smaller, on average, ($70 less per year) than the per capita deficit of all poor families with children. (Table 2.2.) Thus, although Hispanic children had a higher incidence of poverty, they were somewhat less poor, on the average, than children overall.

Contributing to the high rates of poverty among Hispanic children are very low levels of high school completion by their parents, a relatively large number of children per family, an above-average share of children being raised by mother alone, and a relatively large proportion of children with young parents.

Whether in a married-couple or a female-headed family, most Hispanic children have a family head who lacks a high school diploma. In all, more than half of Hispanic children in married-couple families and two-thirds of those in

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8/ The Census Bureau's poverty threshold is a sum of money that is adjusted for family size and originally was set at three times the cost of the least expensive food plan developed by the Agriculture Department to meet nutritional goals. The poverty threshold is adjusted annually for changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), but the Agriculture Department's Thrifty Food Plan (maximum food stamp benefit) is adjusted annually for changes in food prices, which have risen less than overall prices. In 1984 the threshold for a four-person family was $10,609, equal to about 3.5 times the maximum food stamp benefit for such a family. Appendix table B.1 provides poverty thresholds for families of three to seven persons, 1975-1984.

female-headed families in 1983 had family heads who had not completed high school, including some who never entered high school. (Table 4.10.) These very high rates of parental failure to achieve a high school diploma range from almost double to six times those for non-Hispanic black and white children and confront Hispanic children with a severe disadvantage.

If there had been no differences in 1983 among Hispanic and non-Hispanic black and white children in regard to family type, family size, and age of family head (that is, if the distribution of these demographic characteristics among Hispanic and non-Hispanic families had been the same as in the general population of families with children--and if their behavior had not changed), the incidence of poverty among Hispanic and non-Hispanic children would have been greatly altered. Under these circumstances, poverty rates among Hispanic children would have been one-sixth lower than they actually were, but rates for non-Hispanic blacks would have been reduced relatively much more, by 45 percent. As a result, the Hispanic child poverty rate would have been one-eighth above that of non-Hispanic black children. (Table 4.17.) The finding that demographic factors account for less of the poverty among Hispanic children than among non-Hispanic black children implies that other factors, such as parents' education and level of work effort, affect the poverty rate of Hispanic children more than that of non-Hispanic black children.

About 60 percent of minority fathers (Hispanics and non-Hispanic blacks) in married-couple families worked full time year round (more than 2,000 hours) in 1983, compared with 74 percent of non-Hispanic white fathers. (Table 5.9.) Among married-couple families whose father worked full time, the poverty rate of Hispanic children was almost triple that of non-Hispanic white children and 45 percent above that of non-Hispanic black children. (Table 5.10.) Most Hispanic single mothers did not work at all in 1983. (Table 5.11)

In 1980, more than two-thirds of all poor Hispanic children lived in three States: California, Texas, and New York. (Table 3.5)

Incidence of poverty among Hispanic sub-groups varied widely. More than half the children of Puerto Rican origin were poor (52.2 percent), but only 26.0 percent of the children of Cuban origin were poor. In between were Mexican-Americans, with a rate of 37.0 percent, three percent below the Hispanic average. (Table 3.3)

A. Hispanics' Share of the 1983 Child Population: Total vs. Poor

Children in Poverty divided the child population into three racial categories: white, black, and other races, and it provided some overall data about Hispanics, an ethnic rather than a racial category. It found the 1983 poverty population to comprise 13.8 million children: 8.8 million whites, 63.6 percent of the total; 4.4 million blacks, 31.8 percent; and 0.6 million other children, 4.7 percent. Children of Hispanic origin were included in the above groups.

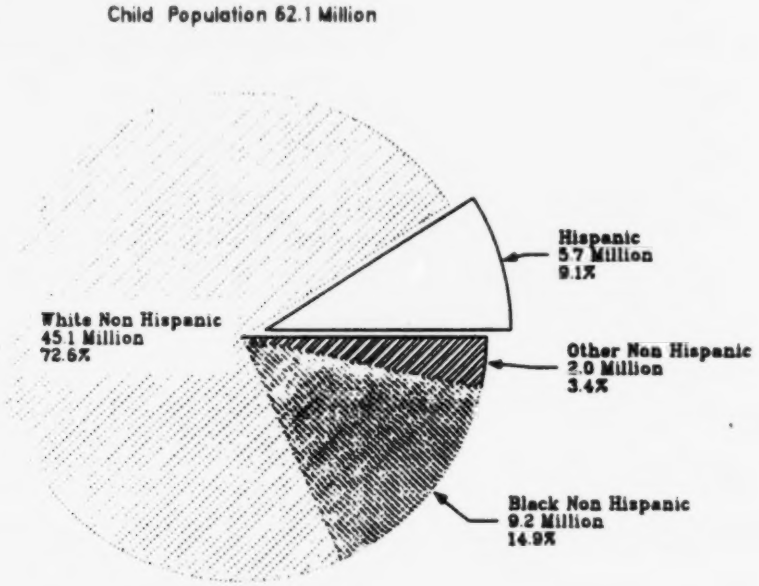
This report divides the child population into four mutually exclusive racial/ethnic categories: Hispanic, non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, and other non-Hispanic. Under this classification, the 1983 population of 13.8 million poor children consists of: 6.7 million non-Hispanic whites, 48.6 percent of the total; 4.3 million non-Hispanic blacks, 31.3 percent; 2.2 million Hispanics, 15.6 percent; and 0.6 million other non-Hispanics, 4.5 percent of the total (chart 2.1).

The incidence of poverty among non-Hispanic white children in 1983 was 14.9 percent, one-seventh lower than the rate of 17.3 percent calculated for all white children in Children in Poverty. Among non-Hispanic black children the incidence of poverty was 46.6 percent, almost unchanged from the poverty rate of 46.7 percent for all black children.

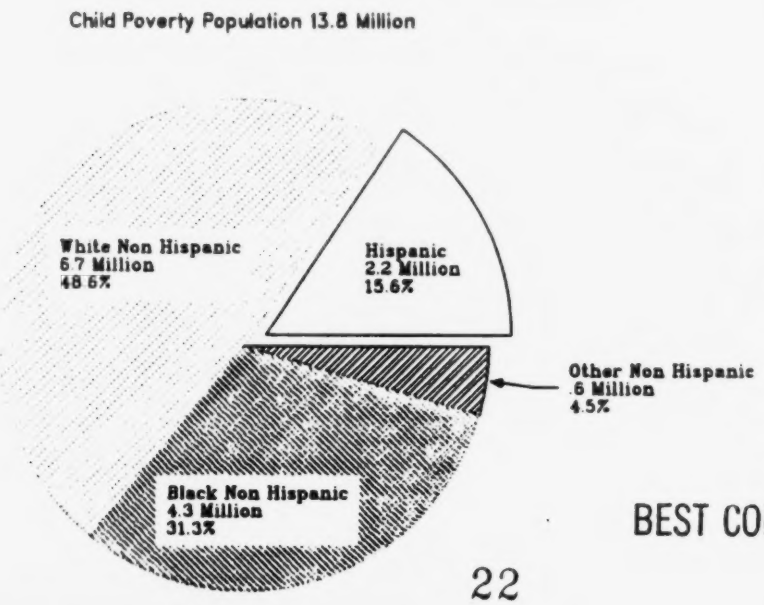
As chart 2.1 shows, Hispanic and non-Hispanic black children have larger shares of the poor child population than they do of the total child population, reflecting their above-average poverty rates. Conversely, non-Hispanic white children have smaller shares of the poor child population than of the total child population because of their below-average incidence of poverty.

CHART 2.1

Composition of Child Population: 1983



Composition of Child Poverty Population: 1983



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NOTE: Prepared by CRS using data from the March 198[illegible]

B. Incidence of Poverty

By Family Category. In male-present families and for all mother-child families except those of widows, the incidence of poverty in 1983 was higher among Hispanic children than among non-Hispanics. For an Hispanic child, the likelihood of poverty in a male-present family was 2.7 times that of a non-Hispanic white child and 16 percent above that of a non-Hispanic black child. Among mother-child families, the differences were smaller. (Table 2.1)

By Marital Status of Mother. Highest poverty rates belong to children of never-married mothers, and within this group, to Hispanics. More than 85 out of 100 such Hispanic children were poor in 1983. For non-Hispanic children of never-married mothers, the poverty rates were 79 per 100 blacks and 65 per 100 whites. (Table 4.6.) In 1980, birth rates of unmarried Hispanic women exceeded those of unmarried non-Hispanic women at all age groupings (table 4.8). Births to unmarried teenagers (aged 15-19) amounted to 39.7 per 1,000 Hispanic women, compared with 27.7 per 1,000 non-Hispanic women.

Among children of divorced or separated mothers raising children alone, Hispanics also have higher rates of poverty than non-Hispanics. In 1983, 73 percent of such Hispanic children were poor. Among children being raised by widowed mothers alone, however, Hispanics had a lower poverty rate (45 per 100) than non-Hispanic blacks (57 per 100). (Table 4.6)

By Parent's Education. An Hispanic child in a married-couple family whose father failed to complete high school is nine percent less likely than a similar non-Hispanic black child, but 50 percent more likely than such a non-Hispanic white child, to be poor. Their 1983 poverty rates were 38 per 100 Hispanic children, 42 per 100 non-Hispanic blacks, and 25 per 100 non-Hispanic whites.

Poverty rates among Hispanic children in both married-couple families and female-headed families whose family head completed some college were about half as high as for those whose parent did not commence college after high school.

Among children being raised by single mothers without a high school diploma, poverty rates overall averaged above 80 percent. As in the case of married-couple families whose head failed to complete high school, non-Hispanic black children had the highest poverty rates. By race/ethnicity, the child poverty rates of single mothers without a high school diploma were: Hispanics, 84 percent; non-Hispanic blacks, 90 percent; and non-Hispanic whites, 71 percent. (Table 4.9)

By Family Size. An Hispanic child in a family of four or more children was 79 percent more likely to be poor in 1983 than one in a smaller size family, but less likely to be poor than a non-Hispanic black child in such a family. On the average, 55 percent of the Hispanic children in large families were poor in 1983, compared with 65 percent of non-Hispanic black children and 27 percent of non-Hispanic white children in such families (table 4.15). Poor Hispanic children are substantially more likely to live in large families than are poor non-Hispanic children, white or black. In 1983, 42 percent of poor Hispanic children lived in families with four or more children; corresponding percentage for whites and blacks were 23 and 35.

By Age of Parent. In general, children with parents at least 30 years old are about one-third less likely to be poor than those of younger parents. For Hispanic children, the difference is smaller than average (about one-fifth); for non-Hispanic white children, it is larger than average (exceeding 40 percent). For non-Hispanic black children, the pattern is erratic, depending on family type.

The poverty rate differential by race/ethnicity is greatest among children in married-couple families whose family head is at least 30 years old. An Hispanic child in such a family is almost three times as likely to be poor as a non-Hispanic white child (25.1 percent vs. 8.8 percent). (Table 4.11)

C. Severity of Poverty

Among female-headed families, Hispanic and non-Hispanic black children in 1983 had roughly the same degree of poverty. That is, their per capita income deficits were roughly the same, slightly above $1,290 (and below the all-family per capita average).

Overall, the poverty of Hispanic children is about 5 to 10 percent less severe than that of non-Hispanic children. Per capita poverty income gaps of Hispanic families with children averaged $1,033 in 1983, below the comparable figures for non-Hispanic black and white families with children by $99 and $51, respectively. Since Hispanic families tend to have more children than non-Hispanics, however, it takes more dollars to lift the average Hispanic family across the poverty threshold, even though its per capita deficit is smaller.

TABLE 2.2. Per Capita Poverty Income Deficits for Families with Children, 1983

	Hispanics	Non-Hispanic blacks	Non-Hispanic whites	All families
Female-headed families	$1,293	$1,292	$1,315	$1,297
Male-present families	847	908	956	931
All families	$1,033	$1,182	$1,084	$1,103

D. Who Are the Hispanic Poor Children?

In 1983, a total of 2.160 million Hispanic children had money income below the Census Bureau poverty thresholds. Of these, 2.105 million were classified as children who lived with other family members (related children). The remaining 55,000 poor children included teenage householders or spouses living on their own and children who lived with unrelated individuals. Of all own related 9/ poor children, 55 percent lived in married-couple families, 30 percent had divorced or separated mothers, 11 percent had never-married mothers, two percent had widowed mothers, and two percent had married mothers whose spouse was absent (table 2.3).

9/ An "own related child" is the son or daughter, stepchild, or adopted child of a family head with whom he lives.

TABLE 2.3. Composition of 1983 Child Poverty Population, by Family Type, Marital Status of Mother, Race/Ethnicity a/

Poor children	Percent of poor children			
	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic blacks	Non-Hispanic whites	All children b/
In married-couple families	55.2	25.8	62.5	51.4
In female-headed families of:				
Divorced or separated mothers	30.2	39.6	29.7	31.8
Never-married mothers	10.6	30.1	4.1	12.7
Widowed mothers	2.0	3.7	1.7	2.5
Married spouse absent	2.0	0.8	2.0	1.7
	100	100	100	100

a/ Prepared by CRS using data from the March 1984 supplement to the Current Population Survey. Data are for own related children.

b/ Column does not sum to total because of rounding.

Hispanic children were more like their non-Hispanic white counterparts than non-Hispanic blacks. There were, however, some significant differences. A poor Hispanic child was 2.5 times as likely as a non-Hispanic white child to have a never-married mother (but 63 percent less likely than a non-Hispanic black child to have such a mother). The share of poor Hispanic children who lived with separated or divorced mothers was roughly equal to that of poor non-Hispanic white children but lower than that of poor non-Hispanic black children.

Two-thirds of the poor Hispanic children were of Mexican-American origin and one-fifth were Puerto Rican. The breakdown: Mexican-American, 1.431 million

poor children, or 66.3 percent of all poor Hispanic children; Puerto Rican, 437,000 poor children, or 20.2 percent; Cuban, 45,000, 2.1 percent; and other Hispanics, 24,000, 11.4 percent. (Table 3.3)

E. Poverty Trends: 1975-1983

Composition of Poor Child Population. From 1978 to 1982, the number of poor Hispanic children climbed by almost 53 percent, and the share of all poor children who were Hispanic rose from 13.5 percent to 16.0 percent. In 1983 the share declined to 15.6 percent, as the Hispanic child poverty rate decreased. (Appendix table B.2)

Family Type. The share of Hispanic children in female-headed families rose from 19.7 percent to 23.0 percent in the period, 1975-1983. This was a lesser rate of growth (17 percent) than occurred among non-Hispanic whites (19.5 percent) but a much greater one than that of non-Hispanic blacks (9.5 percent). In this period the incidence of child poverty climbed faster among male-present families than in female-headed families. In 1975 an Hispanic child without a father at home had been 3.3 times as likely to be poor as one in a male-present family. By 1983, the multiple had declined to 2.7.

During these years the overall population of Hispanic children increased by 9.9 percent (one-half million children). In contrast, because of falling birth rates the number of non-Hispanic children declined. Numbers of non-Hispanic white and black children shrank by 10.3 and 4.8 percent, respectively (decreases amounting to five million white and 400 thousand black children). The share of all children in female-headed families who were Hispanic climbed from 9.6 percent in 1975 to 11.1 percent in 1983. The share of all children in male-present families who were Hispanic rose from 7.2 in 1975 to 8.6 in 1983.

Poverty Rates. Lowest poverty rates for Hispanic children were reached in 1978, when 26.9 children per 100 were poor. 10/ Since that year poverty rates have risen much faster among male-present than in female-headed families, somewhat "defeminizing" children's poverty. The 1978-1983 increase in incidence of poverty in families with a male present: Hispanics, 58.8 percent; non-Hispanic blacks, 31.8 percent; and non-Hispanic whites, 77.2 percent.

Among female-headed families, poverty rates increased during these years by 4.5 percent for Hispanic children, 3.1 percent for non-Hispanic blacks, and by 19.8 percent for non-Hispanic whites.

Thus, in both male-present and female-headed families, the proportion of whites in the child poverty population grew during these years.

F. Work and Poverty

In 1983, 43.3 percent of Hispanic children would have been classified as "poor" if their only income had been family earnings and other market income. This was two-thirds above the all-child rate of market income poverty. For non-Hispanic blacks, more than one-half the children were poor on the basis of market income alone. (Table 5.1)

On the average, Hispanic fathers worked fewer hours during the year than non-Hispanic white fathers, but more than non-Hispanic black fathers. Their annual earnings tended to be substantially smaller than those of non-Hispanic white fathers, but about the same as those of non-Hispanic black fathers.

In the aggregate, Hispanic mothers generally worked fewer hours during the year than either their white or black counterparts and had smaller annual earnings.

10/ Census Bureau data series began in 1973.

In 1983, 2.5 million of the nation's own related children--more than one-fifth of such children--were poor despite year-round, full-time work (more than 2000 hours) by at least one parent. In all, about six percent of the poor children in mother-child families and seven percent of those in married-couple families had a parent (or parents) who worked more than 2,000 hours in 1983. The children of the full-time working poor included 21 percent of all poor Hispanic children, 13 percent of all poor non-Hispanic black children, and 27 percent of all poor non-Hispanic white children. (Table 5.13)

Fifty-three percent of Hispanic single mothers did not work at all in 1983, but more than three-fourths of non-Hispanic white single mothers and nearly 60 percent of non-Hispanic black single mothers worked at least part of the time. (Table Table 5.11)

The poverty rate of Hispanic children whose father worked full time was more than triple that of corresponding non-Hispanic black children. (Table 5.10) One reason for the high incidence of poverty in married-couple Hispanic families with a full-time working father is the fewer hours worked by their wives, compared with those of non-Hispanic black and white wives.

G. Government Transfer Payments

Available social insurance payments and cash welfare benefits per Hispanic child who was poor without them declined in constant dollar value from 1975 to 1983, by 20 and 24 percent, respectively. (Tables 6.1 and 6.2.) The proportion of Hispanic children who were poor before governmental transfers (those in market income poverty) rose 10.7 percent from 1975 to 1983, but the proportion who still were poor after cash transfers rose more rapidly, by 14.7 percent. (Table 6.3.) The disportionate rise in final money income poverty rates reflects a

much smaller impact of cash welfare transfers upon poverty rates in 1983 than in 1975.

In the same years the pre-transfer poverty income deficit of Hispanic children rose by $953 million in 1983 dollars (by more than one-third), reflecting not only higher market income poverty rates but growth in the underlying Hispanic child population. However, governmental cash transfers to children who were poor without them declined by $39 million. Thus, the post-transfer deficit in 1983 was almost $1 billion greater ($992 million) than it had been in 1975.

From 1975 to 1983, Hispanic children generally accounted for about 15 to 16 percent of all children whose total cash income fell short of poverty thresholds. (Table A-2.) Hispanic families consistently accounted for smaller shares of major welfare caseloads (Aid to Families with Dependent Children, food stamps, subsidized housing) than the fraction of the total population of poor children represented by Hispanics.

CHAPTER 3. POVERTY AMONG HISPANIC CHILDREN IN 1983

A. How Do Poverty Rates for Hispanic Children Compare to Those for Other Children?

Depending on what income was counted, in 1983 an Hispanic child generally was from 2.4 to 2.6 times as likely to be poor as a non-Hispanic white child, but from 15 to 18 percent less likely to be poor than a non-Hispanic black child. The relationships fell within these limits whether poverty was measured before or after Government transfer payments (social insurance and welfare) and whether the income counted included or excluded noncash benefits (at minimum value). 11/ If noncash benefits were assigned maximum value, the gap between Hispanic poverty rates and those of non-Hispanic black children narrowed to 8 percent. See table 3.1.

11/ For market income poverty rates of children by race and Spanish origin, 1975-1983, see table 5.1. The different types of income measures and their effects on poverty rates over time are discussed in Children in Poverty, p. 3 ff. and p. 20 ff.

TABLE 3.1. Child Poverty Rates a/ Under Alternative Measures of Income, by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1983

Income measure	Poverty rates by race and Hispanic origin		
	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic white	Non-Hispanic black
Market	43.3	18.1	51.0
Pre-welfare	40.0	15.3	48.4
Total cash	38.2	14.9	46.6
Non-cash benefits:			
at minimum value	35.5	13.8	42.0
at maximum value	27.8	11.4	30.1

a/ Poverty rates for all children under 18.

Note: Table prepared by CRS using data from the March 1984 Current Population Survey. Poverty rates in this table were calculated on the basis of the Census Bureau definition.

Market income only. In 1983 more than two out of five Hispanic children lived in families whose market income (earnings and other private income such as interest, dividends, and rent) were insufficient to lift them over the poverty threshold. 12/ By comparison, 51 percent of non-Hispanic black children and 18.1 percent of non-Hispanic white children were "poor" on the basis of market income alone.

Market income plus social insurance (pre-welfare income). Addition of social insurance benefits (chiefly social security and unemployment insurance) to a family's counted income did relatively more to reduce child poverty for non-Hispanic whites than for Hispanics or non-Hispanic blacks. These benefits lowered poverty rates of non-Hispanic white children by 15.5 percent, twice

12/ See Appendix B for weighted average poverty thresholds of the Census Bureau for families of three to seven persons, 1975-1984.

the 7.6 percent reduction they achieved for Hispanic children and triple their 5.1 percent reduction for non-Hispanic black children.

Total cash income (official poverty rate). When cash welfare benefits were included in the 1983 counted income, the reduction in poverty rates was greater for Hispanic and non-Hispanic black children than for non-Hispanic white children, in contrast to the situation for social insurance. Addition of cash welfare benefits lowered pre-welfare poverty rates of Hispanic children by 4.5 percent; of non-Hispanic black children, by 3.7 percent; and of non-Hispanic white children by 2.6 percent. For all groups, means-tested cash benefits had relatively less effect on reducing pre-welfare poverty rates than social insurance benefits had on reducing market income poverty rates.

Cash plus noncash benefits. The official count of the poor disregards noncash benefits, which account for most welfare spending. If food stamps, school meals, subsidized housing, Medicaid and Medicare are treated as income, the result is to lower the 1983 poverty rates substantially for all three groups. 13/ The impact of these benefits depends on how they are valued. The Census Bureau provides three alternative measures for each type of benefit, and Table 3.1 shows the poverty rates that result from using the minimum and maximum valuation methods.

Using the minimum valuation technique, inclusion of these major noncash benefits reduced the 1983 cash poverty rates of Hispanics and of non-Hispanic whites by 7 percent; of non-Hispanic blacks by 10 percent. The maximum valuation approach reduced the 1983 poverty rates by 27.2 percent for Hispanic children, by 23.5 percent for non-Hispanic whites, and by 35.4 for non-Hispanic

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13/ See Children in Poverty, pp. 39 ff. for a general discussion of how counting major noncash benefits as income affects the trend of poverty rates over time.

blacks. To sum up, non-cash benefits reduced poverty rates for Hispanic children by 7 percent to 27 percent, depending on the valuation method used.

B. How Severe Is the Poverty Among These Groups?

To judge the severity of poverty within the poor population rather than the incidence of poverty in the total population, the concept of income deficit is used. The income deficit is the amount of additional income that a family would need to reach its poverty threshold.

The first (horizontal) panel in table 3.2 shows the aggregate poverty deficit for families with children under 18. These figures represent the sum of the individual deficits for all families with children. The table shows the 1983 income deficit of families with children measured three different ways: market income only, pre-welfare income, and total cash income. On the basis of market income alone, $6.3 billion would have been needed in 1983 to lift all Hispanic families with children under 18 out of poverty. That figure was reduced to $5.5 billion when social insurance was added and to $3.8 billion after welfare cash also was counted (the official poverty measure of total cash income). Substantially greater amounts were needed to bring non-Hispanic white and non-Hispanic black families with children out of poverty because of their much larger populations. Their combined market income poverty deficit was $38 billion; Government cash transfer of social insurance and welfare aid reduced their deficit to $22 billion. After all cash income was counted, the aggregate poverty deficit for all families with children amounted to

$26.9 billion in 1983. 14/ The total included $1.1 billion needed by non-Hispanic families who were neither black nor white, but of "other" races.

TABLE 3.2. Aggregate and Per Capita Income Deficit for Families With Children a/ by Race and Family Type, 1983

Deficit measure	Total b/	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic white	Non-Hispanic black
Aggregate deficit (billions)				
Market income	$46.4	$6.3	$22.8	$15.2
Pre-welfare income	37.9	5.5	17.5	13.0
Total cash income	26.9	3.8	13.2	8.8
Average family deficit				
Market income	$6,375	$6,474	$5,685	$7,461
Pre-welfare income	5,993	6,211	5,323	6,843
Total cash income	4,426	4,472	4,145	4,851
Per capita deficit				
Market income	$1,596	$1,489	$1,489	$1,823
Pre-welfare income	1,494	1,439	1,391	1,669
Total cash income	1,103	1,033	1,084	1,182

a/ Data for all children.

b/ Total includes deficit for "Other Non-Hispanic" children as well as children shown in table.

Note: Table prepared by CRS using data from the March 1984 Current Population Survey.

The average family income deficits, shown in the second panel of the table, control for the different number of families in each group. These figures are derived by dividing the aggregate deficit by the number of families in the group. The average family deficit (based on total cash income) for Hispanics

14/ The poverty deficit of all children in these families (their pro-rata share of the family deficit) was $15.9 billion. See Children in Poverty, p. 29-30 for discussion of the poverty deficits of families without children and of the aged.

is 7.9 percent greater than that of non-Hispanic whites, and 7.8 percent less than that of non-Hispanic blacks. The effect of transfer payments (both social insurance and means-tested income) is to reduce the average family deficit among Hispanics by 30.9 percent (from $6,474 to $4,472); these payments reduce the deficit among non-Hispanic white and black families by 27.1 and 35.0 percent, respectively.

Per capita income deficits deal with the problems of comparing these groups without distortions caused by variations in group size or family size. The third panel of the table shows these estimates. The per capita figures are derived by dividing each family's income deficit by the number of family members. All per capita income deficits so derived are then averaged to provide an average per capita income deficit. Families of different sizes who are equally distant (in number of dollars) from their poverty threshold will have different per capita income deficits.

The 1983 per capita deficit for members of Hispanic families with children based on market income alone was the same as that of non-Hispanic whites, but 18 percent smaller than that of non-Hispanic blacks, $1,823. When total cash income was used to determine the poverty deficit, Hispanic families with children had the lowest per capita deficit, $1,033, 15/ compared to $1,084 for non-Hispanic whites and $1,182 for non-Hispanic blacks.

C. How Does Poverty Vary Among Hispanic Children?

In 1983 poverty rates varied substantially among the different groups of the Hispanic population. A Puerto Rican child was twice as likely to be poor

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15/ For 1983 poverty deficits per child (rather than per capita deficits for all members of families with children) see chapter 4, table 4.3, which also gives 1975-1982 data.

as a Cuban child and almost 40 percent more likely to be poor than a Mexican-American child (52.2 percent versus 26.2 and 37.0 percent, respectively). Table 3.3 shows the composition of the total Hispanic child population and of the poor Hispanic child population, as well as the poverty rates for each group. It shows that while Puerto Rican children accounted for just under 15 percent of all Hispanic children in 1983, they represented more than 20 percent of the poor Hispanic children. Because of their relatively lower poverty rates, Mexican-American and Cuban children represent smaller proportions of the poor child population than they do of the total Hispanic child population.

TABLE 3.3 Composition of Total and Poor Hispanic Children a/
by Type of Spanish Origin, 1984
(Numbers in Thousands)

	Number and percent of children		
Type of Spanish origin	Poor children	All children	Poverty rates
Mexican-American	1,431 (66.3%)	3,858 (68.3%)	37.0
Puerto Rican	437 (20.2%)	838 (14.8%)	52.2
Cuban	45 (2.1%)	173 (3.1%)	26.0
Other Hispanic	247 (11.4%)	781 (13.8%)	31.6
Total Hispanic	2,160 (100.0%)	5,651 (100.0%)	38.2

a/ Data for all children.

Note: Table prepared by CRS using data from the March 1984 Current Population Survey.

D. Where Do The Poor Hispanic Children Live?

Regional Distribution. Hispanic children generally are concentrated in particular areas of the country. In 1983, over 80 percent of all Hispanic poor children lived in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, West South Central, and Pacific census divisions. In contrast, only about 39 percent of poor non-Hispanic white and 35 percent of poor non-Hispanic black children lived in these areas (or 45 percent of all poor children). (See table 3.4.)

Nearly one-third of all Hispanic poor children live in the Pacific division, reflecting the very high concentration of Hispanic children in California. Poor non-Hispanic white children are somewhat concentrated in the East and West North Central divisions and poor non-Hispanic black children, in the South Atlantic and East South Central divisions, but the divisional differences are much smaller for these two groups.

TABLE 3.4. Geographic Distribution of Poor Children a/ by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1983

	Number and percent of all poor children in group and poverty rates (numbers in thousands)											
	Hispanic			Non-Hispanic white			Non-Hispanic black			Total		
Census Division b/	No.	Percent	Poverty rate	No.	Percent	Poverty rate	No.	Percent	Poverty rate	No.	Percent	Poverty rate
Northeast and Mid-Atlantic	521	24.1	53.4	1,285	19.2	13.5	651	15.0	41.5	2,497	18.0	20.2
East and West North Central	151	7.1	36.5	2,198	32.8	16.2	996	23.0	53.5	3,406	24.7	21.2
South Atlantic and East South Central	77	3.6	23.0	1,462	21.8	15.3	1,780	41.2	47.9	3,366	24.4	24.3
West South Central	530	24.5	36.1	593	8.8	13.2	567	13.1	46.2	1,756	12.7	23.8
Mountain	194	9.0	37.7	423	6.3	16.0	50	1.2	41.5	746	5.4	21.6
Pacific	686	31.8	35.3	746	11.1	14.0	275	6.4	35.6	2,036	14.7	22.5
Total	2,160	100.0	38.2	6,707	100.0	14.9	4,319	100.0	46.6	13,807	100.0	22.2

a/ All children under 18: related children who lived with other family members, teenage householders or spouses who lived on their own, and children who lived as unrelated individuals.

b/ Some census divisions have been collapsed because of inadequate sample size. The divisions include the following States: Northeast: Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island; Middle-Atlantic: New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania; East North Central: Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois; West North Central: Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota; South Atlantic: Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida; East South Central: Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi; West South Central: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas; Mountain: Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, and Arizona; and Pacific: Washington, Oregon, California, Alaska, and Hawaii.

Note: Table prepared by CRS using data from the March 1984 Current Population Survey.

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Although only 17.3 percent of all Hispanic children live in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, they represent 24 percent of poor Hispanic children. This is because these Hispanic children are disproportionately poor, with 1983 poverty rates 40 percent above those of total Hispanic children. Because the Hispanic child poverty rates of the Mountain Division and the West South Central Division are about the same as for Hispanic children in the country as a whole, their shares of poor Hispanic children are similar to their shares of all Hispanic children. Although the Pacific division has about 34.4 percent of all Hispanic children, it has only 31.8 percent of poor Hispanic children because of below-average poverty rates.

State distribution and poverty rates. The 1980 Census (based on income for calendar year 1979) found that two-thirds of poor Hispanic children (and almost two-thirds of all Hispanic children) lived in three States. In 1980, California had 404,500 poor Hispanic children, 25.2 percent of the nation's total; Texas, 404,191, 25.2 percent; and New York, 260,747, 16.3 percent of the total. (See table 3.5.)

The overall poverty rate for (related) Hispanic children in the 1980 Census was 29.1 percent. In California the incidence of poverty among Hispanic children was below average, at 23.5 percent; but in Texas and New York it was above average, at 33.4 and 44.5 percent, respectively.

Table 3.5. Hispanic Related Children Under 18--1979

State	Hispanic poor children	All Hispanic children	Poverty rate	Percent of U.S. Hispanic poor children	Percent of U.S. Hispanic children
Alabama	4,297	11,960	35.9	0.3	0.2
Alaska	495	3,406	14.5	0.0	0.1
Arizona	44,017	182,108	24.2	2.7	3.3
Arkansas	2,261	6,459	35.0	0.1	0.1
California	404,500	1,723,085	23.5	25.2	31.5
Colorado	31,297	133,330	23.5	2.0	2.4
Connecticut	23,163	53,388	43.4	1.4	1.0
Delaware	1,789	4,149	43.1	0.1	0.1
District of Columbia	810	3,219	25.2	0.1	0.1
Florida	45,902	220,025	20.9	2.9	4.0
Georgia	5,738	20,234	28.4	0.4	0.4
Hawaii	5,704	29,083	19.6	0.4	0.5
Idaho	4,915	15,767	31.2	0.3	0.3
Illinois	62,232	252,359	24.7	3.9	4.6
Indiana	6,155	34,903	17.6	0.4	0.6
Iowa	2,174	11,120	19.6	0.1	0.2
Kansas	4,783	25,230	19.0	0.3	0.5
Kentucky	3,046	8,959	34.0	0.2	0.2
Louisiana	7,282	33,314	21.9	0.5	0.6
Maine	517	2,107	24.5	0.0	0.0
Maryland	2,734	20,521	13.3	0.2	0.4
Massachusetts	28,418	58,324	48.7	1.8	1.1
Michigan	14,608	65,903	22.2	0.9	1.2
Minnesota	2,638	13,818	19.1	0.2	0.3
Mississippi	3,531	9,017	39.2	0.2	0.2
Missouri	3,250	18,826	17.3	0.2	0.3
Montana	762	4,303	17.7	0.0	0.1
Nebraska	2,191	11,951	18.3	0.1	0.2
Nevada	2,772	19,094	14.5	0.2	0.3
New Hampshire	352	1,921	18.3	0.0	0.0
New Jersey	68,005	182,726	37.2	4.2	3.3
New Mexico	49,437	181,415	27.3	3.1	3.3
New York	260,747	586,037	44.5	16.3	10.6
North Carolina	5,175	18,114	28.6	0.3	0.3
North Dakota	399	1,459	27.3	0.0	0.0
Ohio	11,371	47,564	23.9	0.7	0.9
Oklahoma	6,010	23,831	25.2	0.4	0.4
Oregon	5,719	26,402	21.7	0.4	0.5
Pennsylvania	27,441	61,108	44.9	1.7	1.1
Rhode Island	2,249	6,701	33.6	0.1	0.1
South Carolina	3,985	11,564	34.5	0.2	0.2
South Dakota	402	1,599	25.1	0.0	0.0
Tennessee	3,589	10,836	33.1	0.2	0.2
Texas	404,191	1,209,398	33.4	25.2	21.9
Utah	5,157	25,721	20.0	0.3	0.5
Vermont	154	998	15.4	0.0	0.0
Virginia	4,205	25,359	16.6	0.3	0.5
Washington	12,952	50,040	25.9	0.8	0.9
West Virginia	1,175	4,253	27.6	0.1	0.1
Wisconsin	6,053	27,412	22.1	0.4	0.5
Wyoming	1,309	9,904	13.2	0.1	0.2
U.S. Total	1,602,058	5,510,324	29.1	100.0	100.0

Source: 1980 Census. Characteristics of the Population: General Social and Economic Characteristics by State: Table 92.

All figures are for related children under 18.

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E. Family Characteristics of Hispanic Poor Children

The social characteristics of Hispanic poor children differ significantly from those of other poor children. The characteristics examined here for 1983 are family type, parents' education, parents' age, and size of family. Tables 3.6 and 3.7 present the numbers and percentages, respectively, of poor children according to the several characteristics listed above.

Poor Hispanic children are much more likely to live in families with fathers present than are non-Hispanic black children, as these tables show. Whereas 54 percent (1.2 million) of Hispanic poor children lived with a male present in the home in 1983, only 25 percent (1.1 million) of poor non-Hispanic black children did so. Among poor non-Hispanic white children, 60 percent (4.0 million) lived in male-present families. In contrast, 46 percent (1.0 million) of poor Hispanic children lived in a female-headed family, in comparison to 75 percent (3.2 million) of poor non-Hispanic black children and 40 percent (2.7 million) of poor non-Hispanic white children.

TABLE 3.6. Number of Poor Children by Selected Characteristics by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1983 (Numbers in Thousands)

	Total d/	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic white	Non-Hispanic black
Family Type a/	13,807	2,160	6,707	4,319
Male-present families	6,711	1,163	4,030	1,069
Female-headed families	7,096	997	2,677	3,250
Marital status of female-headed families b/ f/	5,610	822	2,159	2,513
Never-married	1,515	204	248	1,031
Divorced or separated	3,801	580	1,805	1,357
Widowed	294	38	106	125
Education of parents b/ c/				
Married couple families	5,760	1,016	3,606	779
Father				
Failed to complete high school e/	2,712	776	1,323	405
Completed high school	3,049	239	2,283	374
Both parents				
Both failed to complete high school e/	1,969	669	844	259
Both completed high school	2,300	133	1,795	240
One only completed high school	1,491	214	967	279
Female-Headed Families	5,499	813	2,242	2,310
Failed to complete high school e/	2,679	616	890	1,116
Completed high school	2,820	198	1,352	1,194
Age of parents b/ c/				
Married couple families	5,760	1,016	3,606	779
Head under age 30	1,453	251	954	166
Head over age 30	4,307	764	2,652	612
Female-headed families	5,500	813	2,242	2,310
Head under age 30	2,256	283	897	1,028
Head over age 30	3,244	530	1,344	1,282
Family size b/	11,969	1,917	6,082	3,426
Fewer than four children	8,282	1,122	4,663	2,238
Four or more children	3,687	795	1,419	1,188

a/ Data for all children.

b/ Data for own related children.

c/ Characteristics of father in married couple families, characteristics of mother in female-headed families. Data for own related children in primary and secondary families.

d/ Subgroups do not add to "Total" because total includes "other non-Hispanic children," not shown.

e/ Includes persons who did not start high school.

f/ Figures exclude children living with married mothers whose spouses are absent.

Note: Table prepared by CRS using data from the March 1984 Current Population Survey.

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TABLE 3.7. Percent of Poor Children by Selected Characteristics by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1983

	Total	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic white	Non-Hispanic black
Family type a/	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Male-present families	48.6	53.8	60.1	24.8
Female-headed families	51.4	46.2	39.9	75.2
Marital status of female-headed families b/ e/	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Never-married	27.0	24.8	11.5	41.0
Divorced or separated	67.8	70.6	83.6	54.0
Widowed	5.2	4.6	4.9	5.0
Education of parents a/ b/				
Married couple families	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Father				
Failed to complete high school d/	47.1	76.5	36.7	52.0
Completed high school	52.9	23.5	63.3	48.0
Both parents				
Both failed to complete high school d/	34.2	65.7	23.4	33.2
Both completed high school	39.9	13.1	49.8	30.8
Only one completed high school	25.9	21.3	26.8	35.8
Female-headed families	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Failed to complete high school d/	48.7	75.8	39.7	48.3
Completed high school	51.3	24.3	60.3	51.7
Age of parents b/ c/				
Married couple families	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Head under age 30	25.2	24.8	26.5	21.3
Head over age 30	74.8	75.2	73.5	78.6
Female-headed families	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Head under age 30	41.0	34.8	40.0	44.5
Head over age 30	59.0	65.2	60.0	55.5
Family size b/	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Fewer than four children	69.2	58.5	76.7	65.3
Four or more children	30.8	41.5	23.3	34.7

a/ Data for all children.

b/ Data for own related children.

c/ Characteristics of father in married-couple families, characteristics of mother in female-headed families. Data for own related child in primary and secondary families.

d/ Includes persons who did not start high school.

e/ Figures exclude children living with married mothers whose spouses are absent.

Note: Table prepared by CRS using data from the March 1984 Current Population Survey.

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In most of this chapter all children have been included to identify their general living arrangements. However, in the remainder of this chapter and in chapters 4 and 5 only children identified as "own related" are examined. This is because the rest of the report studies characteristics of children's parents for their relationships to children's poverty. "Own related" children are children who are sons or daughters, stepchildren, or adopted children of the head of the family. 16/ In some of the analyses, children in related subfamilies 17/ are excluded because the parent (and hence the parent's characteristics) cannot be identified on the data file.

Most (own related) poor children who live in female-headed families are being raised by a divorced or separated mother. This is the case for Hispanics and for non-Hispanic blacks and non-Hispanic whites. Among Hispanic children, more than two-thirds (of those in female-headed families) live with a divorced or separated mother, compared to more than 84 percent among non-Hispanic white and 54 percent among non-Hispanic black children. Hispanic children are more likely than non-Hispanic white children to live with a never-married mother

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16/ The effect of analyzing only own children affects different groups to a different extent, depending on how many children in the groups live in homes without parents. The following numbers show the reduction in population size that results from this designation:

	Total	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic White	Non-Hispanic Black
All children	62,140	5,651	45,129	9,272
Own related children	57,602	5,083	43,037	7,585
	(92.7%)	(90.0%)	(95.4%)	(81.8%)
Own related children in primary and secondary families only	56,642	4,903	42,614	7,109
	(90.9%)	(86.8%)	(94.4%)	(76.7%)

17/ Related subfamilies are families whose head is related to the head of the household. In tabulations that exclude related subfamilies, only primary and secondary families are included. The latter are families whose members are not related to the head of the household in which they live.

(24.8 and 11.5 percent, respectively) of those in female-headed families, but less likely than non-Hispanic black children (41.0 percent) to do so. The share of poor children in female-headed families living with a widowed mother is slightly lower among Hispanic children, at 4.6 percent, than it is among non-Hispanic black children (5.0 percent). (These percentages exclude children living with married mothers whose spouses are absent.)

Hispanic poor children are much more likely than other children to have parents without a high school diploma. Among those living with married-couple parents, over three-fourths have fathers who failed to complete high school, compared to 37 percent of non-Hispanic white and 52 percent of non-Hispanic black children in the same family situations and to more than half of all poor children in the population. The situation also is unfavorable for Hispanic children when the schooling of both parents is examined. In the case of more than 65 percent of Hispanic poor children who lived with both parents, neither parent completed high school. Among those living with both parents, only 23 percent of poor non-Hispanic white and 33 percent of poor non-Hispanic black children had two parents without a high school diploma.

Among female-headed families, Hispanic children also are much more likely than non-Hispanic children to have a parent without a high school diploma. The mothers of more than three-fourths of Hispanic poor children did not finish high school, compared to mothers of nearly half of all poor non-Hispanic black children and mothers of nearly 40 percent of poor non-Hispanic white children.

Parents of poor Hispanic children tend to differ much less in terms of age than they do in terms of family type and education. Poor Hispanic children who live in married-couple families have fathers over age 30 about three-quarters of the time, compared to about 73 percent of non-Hispanic white children and

about 79 percent of non-Hispanic black children. In all groups, children who live in female-headed families are more likely to have younger mothers. In these families, however, about one-third of poor Hispanic children have mothers under age 30, in comparison to 40 percent of poor non-Hispanic white children and almost 45 percent of poor non-Hispanic black children.

Poor Hispanic children are substantially more likely to live in large families than are poor non-Hispanic children, either white or black. In 1983, 42 percent of poor Hispanic children lived in families with four or more children, in comparison to 23 percent of non-Hispanic white children and 35 percent of non-Hispanic black children.

CHAPTER 4. FACTORS RELATED TO HISPANIC'S CHILDREN POVERTY: 1975-1983

Children in Poverty identified several factors that are related to childhood poverty, including a parent's educational attainment, age, and race; type of family (female-headed vs. male-present); and size of family.

This chapter examines these factors for Hispanic children. Following the basic method of this report about Hispanic children, it compares such children with non-Hispanic black and non-Hispanic white children. For demographic factors such as family type and size, it provides not only 1983 data but available trend data since 1975.

What is the impact on the 1983 poverty status of children when four of these factors are taken into account simultaneously: race and ethnicity, education of the family head, type of family, and age of the parent?

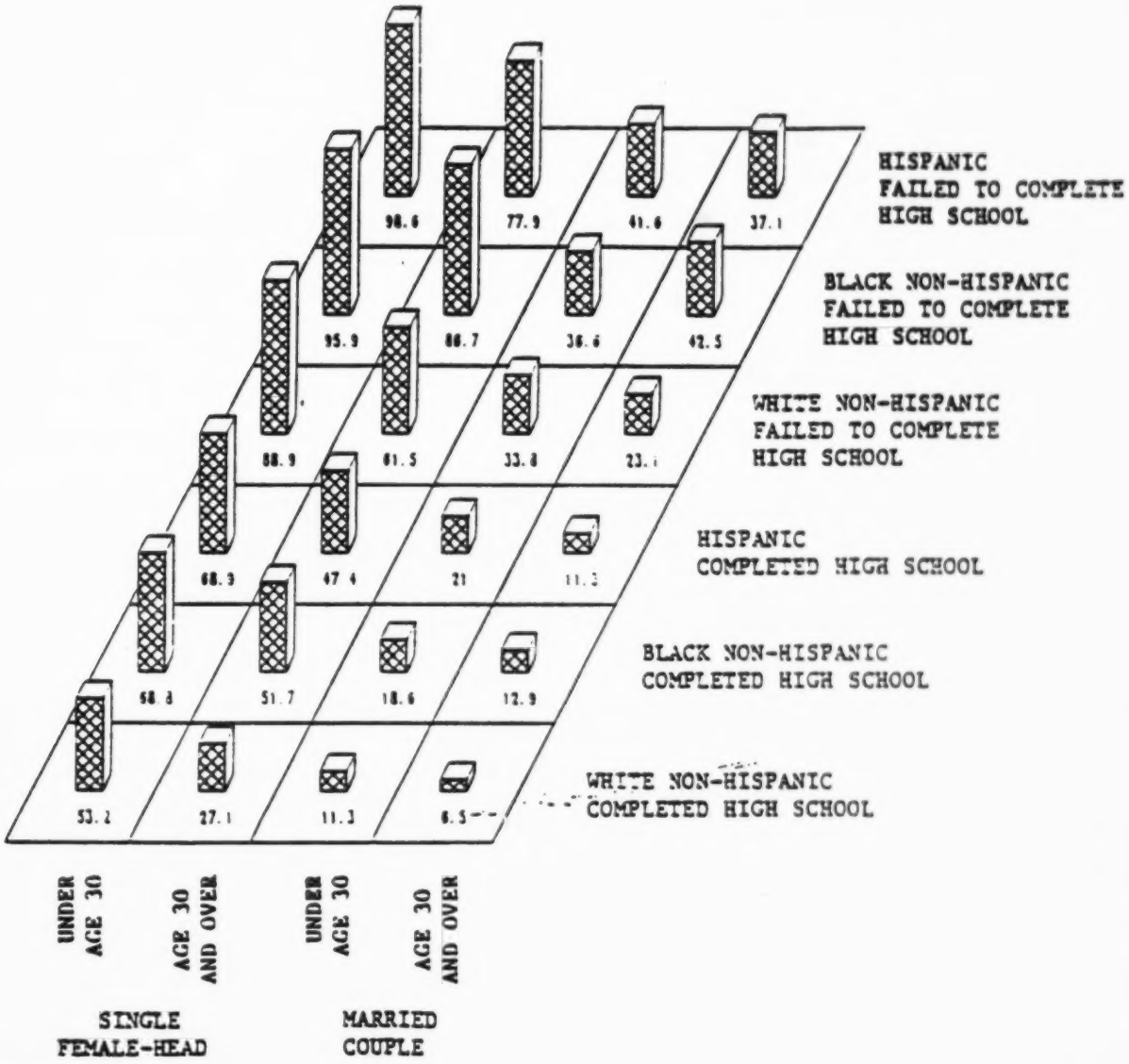
Chart 4.1 sums up the answer for Hispanic and non-Hispanic black and white children. A glance at the chart shows that highest poverty rates are those of children being raised by mothers alone who are under 30 years old and failed to complete high school (upper left corner). In 1983, more than 98 out of 100 such Hispanic children were likely to be poor. They were closely followed by non-Hispanic blacks (96 percent poor) and by non-Hispanic whites (89 percent poor) with the same characteristics.

If the mothers of these children had completed high school, their children's poverty rates would have been lower, but the apparent decline would be relatively greater for non-Hispanic whites (40 percent drop) than for Hispanics (30 percent) or non-Hispanic blacks (28 percent).

CHART 4.1

POVERTY RATES AMONG CHILDREN: 1983

BY FAMILY TYPE, HEAD'S AGE, RACE/ETHNICITY, AND EDUCATION



Note: Prepared by Congressional Research Service using data from the March 1984 Supplement to the Current Population Survey.

As one reads from left to right on the chart, from female-headed families to married-couple families, and, within them, from younger to older ages of the family head, children's poverty rates generally decrease. The one exception is for non-Hispanic black children in married-couple families whose fathers failed to complete high school (second row from top). Poverty rates appear to be higher rather than lower for such children if their fathers are older (30 or more). 18/

Children's poverty rates also generally decline as one reads from top to bottom of the chart, from those who failed to finish high school to those who completed it, and within these groups, from Hispanics to non-Hispanic blacks and then to non-Hispanic whites. However, there are four exceptions, all for non-Hispanic blacks aged 30 and above. In both female-headed and married-couple families (and with or without high school completion by the family head), non-Hispanic black children with older parents appear to have higher poverty rates than do Hispanic children in corresponding families. (These apparent differences may not be statistically significant.)

The lowest poverty rates (bottom right corner) are those of non-Hispanic white children in married-couple families whose fathers are over 30 years old and high school graduates. In 1983, 6.5 out of 100 such children were likely to be poor. Hispanic children and non-Hispanic black children of older, married fathers with high school diplomas were about as likely to be poor as non-Hispanic white children of younger married fathers who finished high school.

18/ The anomaly may result from relatively recent marriage and childbearing patterns of young black women, discussed in Children in Poverty. A large portion of young black mothers are female heads of households. Those who are married may have married to a greater extent because their husbands were better able to support a family, thereby reducing the poverty rate among the families of these younger fathers relative to the rate among other groups.

The lowest poverty rates for children in female-headed families are those in the bottom half of the second column from the left: those whose mothers are both over 30 years old and high school graduates. However, even in these families more than half of the children of non-Hispanic blacks and almost half of the Hispanic children were poor in 1983, along with more than one-fourth of the non-Hispanic white children.

Children in some married-couple families have higher poverty rates than some in female-headed families. The chart shows that Hispanic children and non-Hispanic black children in married-couple families whose fathers failed to finish high school are more likely to be poor than non-Hispanic white children of single mothers who are both over 30 years old and high school graduates.

A. Relatively Fewer Hispanic Children Live in Female-Headed Families, But in All Family Types Their Poverty Rates Are Very High

Poverty Rates in Families in 1983. Poverty rates for children in female-headed families in general have been found to be four times as high as those for children in male-present families 19/ (55.8 percent versus 13.0 percent in 1983). However, an Hispanic child being raised by a mother alone was 2.7 times as likely to be poor as one in a male-present family (73.6 percent versus 27.0 percent). 20/ The narrower difference in poverty rates by family type among Hispanic children reflects their very high rate of poverty in male-present families, a rate more than double the U.S. average. Chart 4.2 compares the

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19/ Male-present families include families with children that have a married couple as the head or a male with no spouse present as the head. Of all own related children living in male-present families with children, only 3.2 percent live in families with a male head and no spouse present.

20/ Rates for own related children. The corresponding rates in 1983 for all children were 70.5 and 27.3 percent.

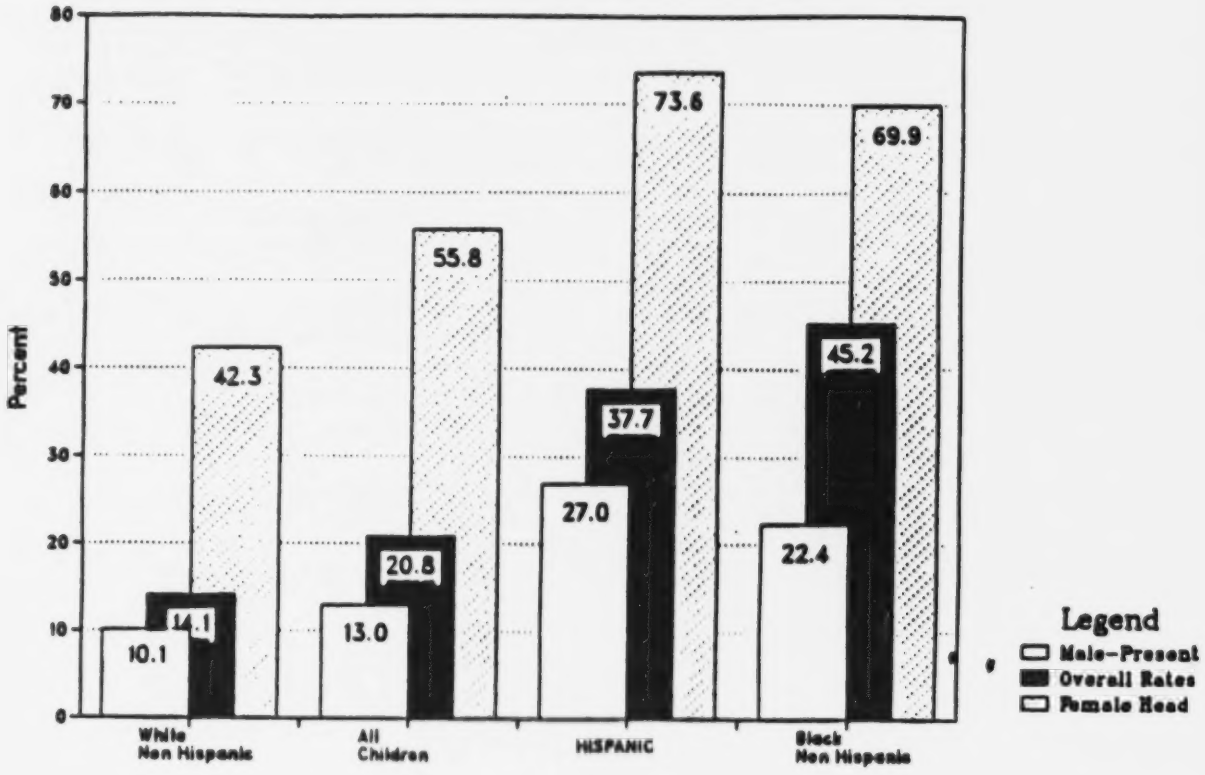
rates for children in the two basic types of families for Hispanic children to the rates for non-Hispanic white and non-Hispanic black children.

Overall, as noted in chapter 3, an Hispanic child is much more likely to be poor than a non-Hispanic white child, but somewhat less likely than a non-Hispanic black child. This relationship changes when family types within these three groups are examined. The poverty rates for Hispanic children are higher than those of either non-Hispanic white or black children of the same family type--in both female-headed and male-present families, as chart 4.2 shows.

Hispanic children have lower overall poverty rates than non-Hispanic blacks, despite their higher rates by family type, because a much higher proportion of non-Hispanic black children than Hispanic children live in the more poverty-prone female-headed families. The share of non-Hispanic black children who live in female-headed families is double that of Hispanic children and almost four times that of non-Hispanic white children. Chart 4.3 demonstrates the effect of the composition of the child population according to family type on the overall poverty rates for the three groups of children. The scale of the circles in the chart for male-present and female-headed families in each population group indicates their relative weight in contributing to the total poverty rate for the children in that group. Nearly 48 percent of non-Hispanic black children live in female-headed families (3.6 out of 7.6 million), in contrast to only 23 percent of Hispanic children (1.2 out of 5.1 million) and 12.5 percent of non-Hispanic white children (5.4 out of 43.0 million). The

CHART 4.2

Comparison of Poverty Rates for Children 1/ by Family Type, Race and Hispanic Origin: 1983



1/ Own related children.

Note: Prepared by Congressional Research Service using data from the March 1984 Supplement to the Current Population Survey.

proportion of children being raised in male-present families, who have much lower poverty rates, is about 50 percent greater among Hispanic children than among non-Hispanic black children.

CHART 4.3. Impact of Family Type on Poverty Rates: Hispanic vs. Non-Hispanic Children

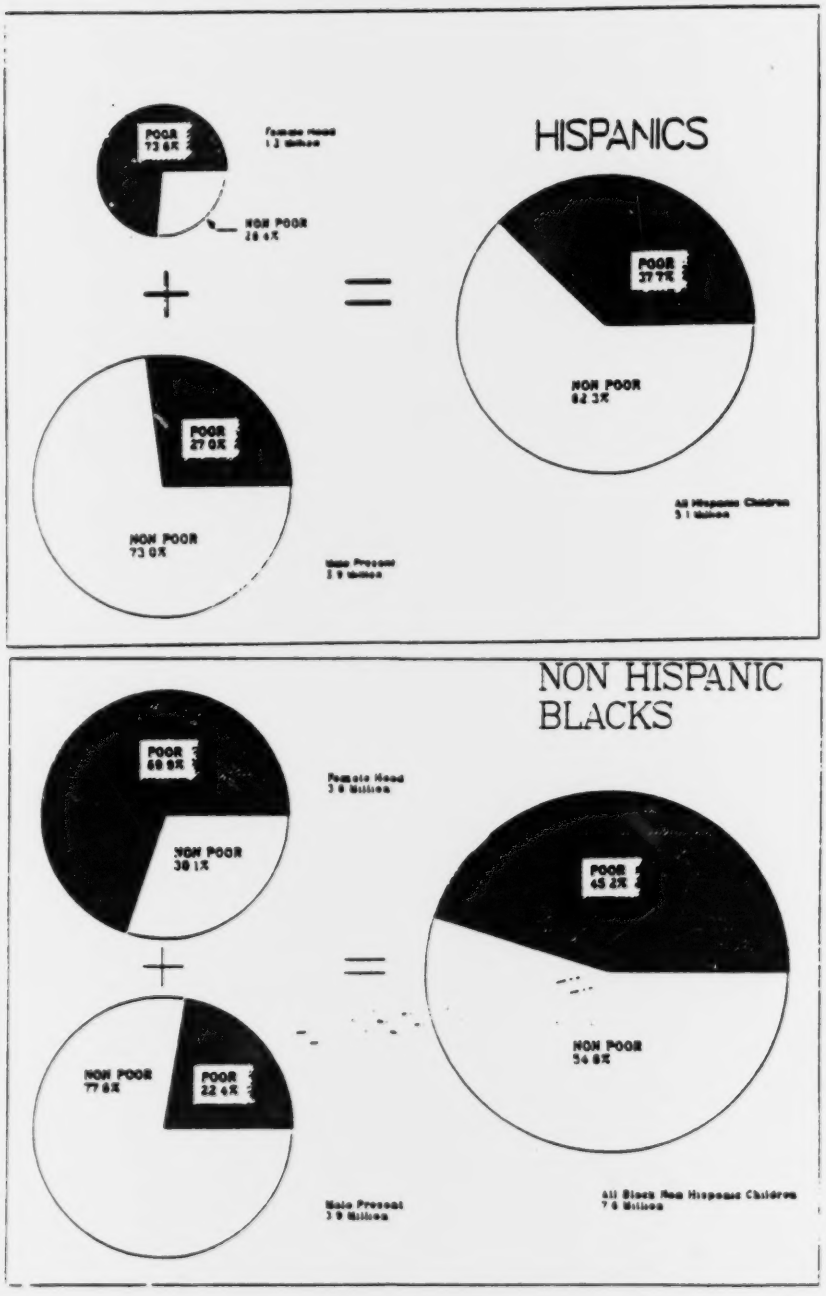
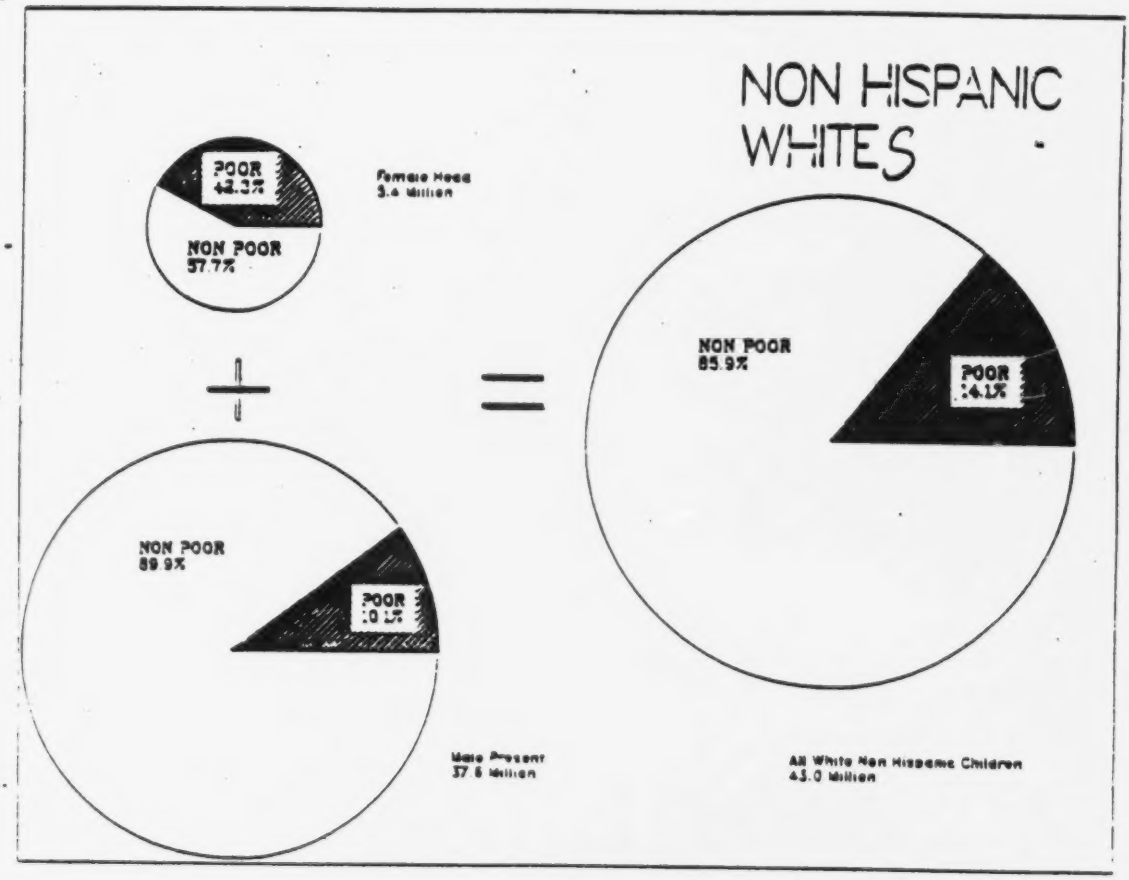


CHART 4.3. Impact of Family Type on Poverty Rates: Hispanic vs. Non-Hispanic Children (continued)



Note: Prepared by Congressional Research Service using data from the March 1984 Supplement to the Current Population Survey.

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Changes Since 1975 in the Types of Families With Children. Since the mid-1970s, the differences in family composition between Hispanic and non-Hispanic families have stayed fairly constant as the percent of children living in female-headed families increased among all groups.

As table 4.1 shows, the proportion of Hispanic as well as non-Hispanic black and white children who lived in female-headed families increased over the period. In general, throughout the period, nearly twice as high a proportion of Hispanic children lived in female-headed families as non-Hispanic white children, and nearly twice as high a proportion of non-Hispanic black children as Hispanic children lived in these families.

TABLE 4.1. Percentage Composition of Total Own Related Children by Family Type, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1975 to 1983

	Percentage Composition by Race and Family Type											
	Hispanic			Non-Hispanic White			Non-Hispanic Black			Total a/		
Year	Overall (thousands)	Female-headed	Male-present	Overall (thousands)	Female-headed	Male-present	Overall (thousands)	Female-headed	Male-present	Overall (thousands)	Female-headed	Male-present
1983	5,083	23.0%	77.0%	43,037	12.5%	87.5%	7,585	47.9%	52.1%	57,607	18.1%	81.9%
1982	5,007	25.0%	75.0%	43,137	12.0%	88.0%	7,582	48.3%	51.7%	57,551	18.0%	82.0%
1981	4,870	24.5%	75.5%	43,741	12.8%	87.2%	7,681	47.0%	53.0%	57,969	18.3%	81.7%
1980	4,831	22.6%	77.4%	44,578	11.7%	88.3%	7,701	47.2%	52.8%	58,757	17.2%	82.8%
1979	5,062	18.3%	81.7%	43,799	11.8%	88.2%	7,655	48.8%	51.2%	57,769	17.3%	82.7%
1978	4,671	18.5%	81.5%	44,756	11.1%	88.9%	7,644	46.5%	53.5%	58,297	16.4%	83.6%
1977	4,738	19.0%	81.0%	45,922	11.3%	88.7%	7,733	46.4%	53.6%	59,506	16.5%	83.5%
1976	4,486	19.1%	80.9%	47,095	10.5%	89.5%	7,803	43.8%	56.2%	60,470	15.6%	84.4%
1975	4,627	19.7%	80.3%	47,974	10.2%	89.8%	7,766	42.0%	58.0%	61,615	15.0%	85.0%

a/ Total includes "other non-Hispanic children."

Note: Prepared by CRS using data from the March supplement to the Current Population Survey for each year.

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Between 1975 and 1983 the proportion of all children living in female-headed families that were Hispanic increased from 9.8 to 11.2 percent. (See table 4.2.) This increase reflected three factors: 1) a rise of one-sixth in the share of all Hispanic children being raised by a women alone (from 19.7 to 23.0 percent), 2) a gain of one-half million Hispanic children, and 3) a decline of 5 million in the combined population of non-Hispanic black and white children.

Thus, although the relative percentage composition of children in female-headed families among the three race/ethnic groups did not change over this period, the relative frequency of the number of Hispanic children in female-headed families did increase, as shown in the numerical composition.

TABLE 4.2. Composition of Total Own Related Children, by Family Type, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1975 to 1983

Year	Composition by race and family type											
	Hispanic			Non-Hispanic white			Non-Hispanic black			Total a/		
	Overall (thousands)	Female-headed	Male-present	Overall (thousands)	Female-headed	Male-present	Overall (thousands)	Female-headed	Male-present	Overall (thousands)	Female-headed	Male-present
1983	5,083	1,167	3,916	43,037	5,387	37,650	7,585	3,637	3,949	57,602	10,420	47,182
1982	5,007	1,250	3,756	43,137	5,192	37,945	7,582	3,659	3,923	57,551	10,372	47,180
1981	4,870	1,193	3,676	43,741	5,602	38,139	7,681	3,607	4,079	57,969	10,601	47,368
1980	4,831	1,093	3,737	44,578	5,197	39,381	7,701	3,635	4,066	58,757	10,121	48,636
1979	5,062	925	4,136	43,799	5,175	38,624	7,655	3,733	3,921	57,769	9,975	47,794
1978	4,671	863	3,809	44,756	4,974	39,782	7,644	3,557	4,087	58,297	9,542	48,755
1977	4,738	899	3,838	45,922	5,189	40,733	7,733	3,587	4,146	59,506	9,805	49,701
1976	4,486	856	3,631	47,095	4,932	42,163	7,803	3,616	4,186	60,470	9,327	51,143
1975	4,627	910	3,716	47,974	4,914	43,060	7,966	3,343	4,623	61,615	9,242	52,373
Percentage Change												
1978-1983	8.8%	35.2%	2.8%	-3.8%	8.3%	-5.4%	-0.8%	2.2%	-3.4%	-1.2%	9.2%	-3.2%

a/ Total includes "other non-Hispanic children."

Note: Prepared by CRS using data from the March supplement to the Current Population Survey for each year.

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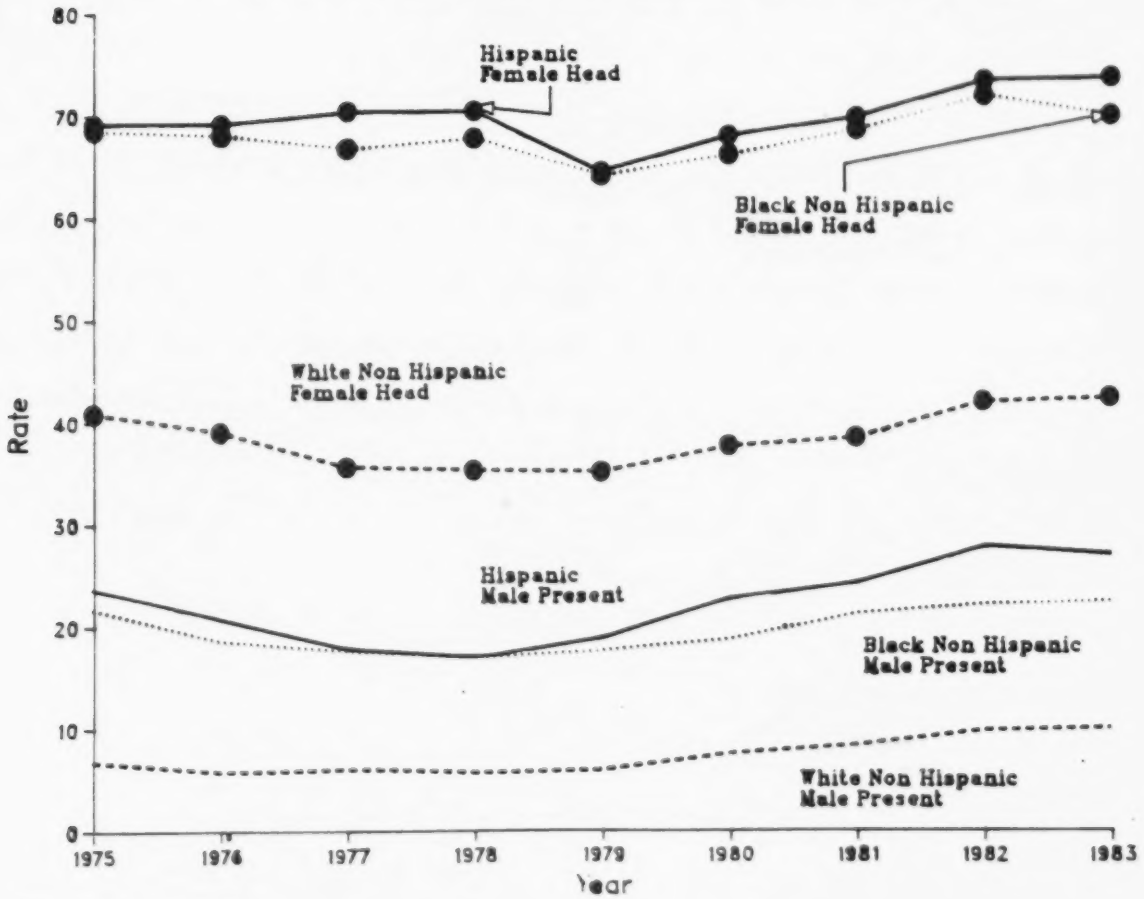
Trends in Poverty Rates Since 1975. The trends in poverty rates among different race and family types from 1975 to 1983 appear in chart 4.4. Consistently over this period Hispanic children in either female-headed or male-present families showed higher poverty rates than non-Hispanic children, either black or white.

As observed elsewhere 21/ the poverty rates for all children rose steadily from 1978 to 1983. Among Hispanic and non-Hispanic black children, however, the poverty rates declined slightly from 1982 to 1983 (from 39.2 to 37.7 percent of Hispanic children and from 46.1 to 45.2 percent of non-Hispanic black children). In the case of Hispanic children, the decline was dominated by the decline shown in chart 4.4 for children in male-present families. Conversely, in the case of black non-Hispanic children, the decline was dominated by the decline in poverty rates for children in female-headed families.

21/ Children in Poverty, pp. 74-77.

CHART 4.4. A Comparison of Poverty Rates for Children 1/
By Family Type, Race and Hispanic Origin: 1975-1983



1/ Own-related children

Note: Prepared by CRS using data from the March 1984 supplement to the Current Population Survey.

The overall increase from 1978 to 1983 was relatively greater in male-present families than in female-headed families in each race/ethnic group. In addition, in spite of the fact that they were starting with higher rates, the increase in poverty among Hispanic children living in male-present families was greater than among non-Hispanic black children in such families. Among Hispanic children living in male-present families, the poverty rate rose nearly 59 percent from 1978 to 1983, compared to an increase of nearly 32 percent and 77 percent, respectively, among non-Hispanic black children and non-Hispanic white children in such families.

Support Table for Chart 4.4. Poverty Rates for Own Related Children by Family Type, Race, and Hispanic Origin, 1975 to 1983

Year	Poverty rates for own related children Hispanic			White non-Hispanic			Black non-Hispanic		
	Overall (thousands)	Male present	Female head	Overall (thousands)	Male present	Female head	Overall (thousands)	Male present	Female head
1983	37.7	27.0	73.6	14.1	10.1	42.3	45.2	22.4	69.9
1982	39.2	27.8	73.3	13.7	9.8	41.9	46.1	22.1	71.8
1981	35.4	24.3	69.7	12.2	8.4	38.4	43.3	21.2	65.8
1980	33.0	22.8	67.9	11.1	7.6	37.6	41.1	18.7	66.1
1979	27.2	18.9	64.4	9.4	6.0	35.1	40.3	17.6	64.1
1978	26.9	17.0	70.4	9.0	5.7	35.3	40.7	17.0	67.8
1977	27.8	17.8	70.4	9.4	6.1	35.6	40.4	17.5	66.8
1976	30.0	20.8	69.2	9.3	5.8	39.1	40.2	18.5	68.1
1975	32.7	23.7	69.2	10.3	6.8	40.9	41.3	21.6	68.6
Percentage change 1975-1983:	15.3	13.9	6.4	36.9	48.5	3.4	9.4	3.7	1.9
1978-1983:	40.1	58.8	4.5	56.7	77.2	19.8	11.1	31.8	3.1

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Changes in the Composition of Poor Children Since 1975. As a result of the increasing numbers of Hispanic children and the rapidly increasing poverty rates in male-present families, the composition of the population of poor children has changed since the mid-1970s (table 4.3). In 1978, the proportion of poor children in female-headed families was at a peak of 56.5 percent. Since 1978, poverty rates have risen faster in male-present families and the proportion of poor children in female-headed families decreased in 1983 to 48.6 percent, as table 4.3 shows. The proportion of poor children in male-headed families increased more than twice as much among non-Hispanic black children as among Hispanic children (15 percent vs. 7 percent). The share of poor non-Hispanic white children in male-present families increased by 11 percent.

TABLE 4.3. Percentage Composition of Own Related Children in Poverty by Family Type, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1975 to 1983

Year	Percentage composition by race and family type											
	Hispanic			Non-Hispanic white			Non-Hispanic black			Total a/		
	Overall (thousands)	Female-headed	Male-present	Overall (thousands)	Female-headed	Male-present	Overall (thousands)	Female-headed	Male-present	Overall (thousands)	Female-headed	Male-present
1983	1,917	44.8%	55.2%	6,082	37.5%	62.5%	3,426	74.2%	25.8%	11,969	48.6%	51.4%
1982	1,962	46.7%	53.3%	5,893	36.9%	63.1%	3,494	75.2%	24.8%	11,751	49.9%	50.1%
1981	1,726	48.2%	51.8%	5,353	40.1%	59.9%	3,329	74.2%	25.8%	10,794	51.4%	48.6%
1980	1,595	46.5%	53.5%	4,964	39.4%	60.6%	3,166	75.9%	24.1%	10,068	51.6%	48.4%
1979	1,379	43.2%	56.8%	4,116	44.2%	55.8%	3,081	77.7%	22.3%	8,921	55.5%	44.5%
1978	1,255	48.4%	51.6%	4,023	43.7%	56.3%	3,110	77.6%	22.4%	8,607	56.5%	43.5%
1977	1,316	48.1%	51.9%	4,311	42.8%	57.2%	3,122	76.7%	23.3%	8,957	55.2%	44.8%
1976	1,346	44.0%	56.0%	4,387	44.0%	56.0%	3,139	74.1%	25.9%	9,122	53.9%	46.1%
1975	1,512	41.7%	58.3%	4,937	40.7%	59.3%	3,291	69.6%	30.4%	9,931	49.9%	50.1%

a/ Total includes "other non-Hispanic children."

Note: Table prepared by CRS using data from the March Supplement to the Current Population Survey for each year.

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For the 5-year period, 1978-1983, as table 4.4 shows, the number of own related poor Hispanic children rose by nearly 53 percent, 22/ compared to increases of slightly more than 10 percent and 51 percent, respectively, among non-Hispanic black children and non-Hispanic white children. Hispanics represented 14.6 percent of the total number of poor children in 1978, 16.7 percent in 1982, and 16.0 percent in 1983. In 1978, Hispanic children in female-headed families represented 7.1 percent of the total number of poor children; in 1983 that figure was about the same (7.2 percent). Hispanic children in male-present families, however, increased as a share of poor children, from 7.5 percent in 1978 to 8.8 percent in 1983.

22/ In the same period the number of all poor Hispanic children increased by 56 percent, from 1,383,000 in 1978 to 2,160,000 in 1983. See Table B.2 in Appendix for 1975-1983 data on all children rather than own related children.

TABLE 4.4. Composition of Own Related Children in Poverty by Family Type, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1975 to 1983

Year	Composition by race and family type											
	Hispanic			Non-Hispanic white			Non-Hispanic black			Total a/		
	Overall (thousands)	Female-headed	Male-present	Overall (thousands)	Female-headed	Male-present	Overall (thousands)	Female-headed	Male-present	Overall (thousands)	Female-headed	Male-present
1983	1,917	859	1,058	6,082	2,278	3,804	3,426	2,562	984	11,969	5,813	6,155
1982	1,962	916	1,045	5,893	2,174	3,719	3,494	2,628	866	11,751	5,860	5,891
1981	1,726	832	895	5,353	2,149	3,204	3,329	2,469	860	10,794	5,550	5,244
1980	1,595	742	853	4,964	1,956	3,008	3,166	2,403	762	10,068	5,197	4,871
1979	1,379	596	783	4,116	1,817	2,299	3,081	2,392	689	8,921	4,893	3,928
1978	1,255	608	647	4,023	1,757	2,266	3,110	2,414	697	8,607	4,861	3,746
1977	1,316	633	683	4,311	1,845	2,467	3,122	2,396	726	8,957	4,941	4,016
1976	1,346	592	754	4,387	1,929	2,458	3,139	2,325	813	9,122	4,918	4,205
1975	1,512	630	882	4,937	2,009	2,928	3,291	2,292	999	9,931	4,959	4,972
Percentage Change												
1978-1983	52.9%	41.4%	63.5%	51.2%	29.6%	67.9%	10.1%	5.3%	26.8%	39.1%	19.6%	44.3%

a/ Total includes "other non-Hispanic children."

Note: Prepared by CRS using data from the March supplement to the Current Population Survey each year.

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Changes in Poverty Gaps Since 1975. The aggregate poverty deficit for all children under 18 23/ rose from $10.8 billion in 1975 (measured in constant 1983 dollars) to $15.9 billion in 1983, a climb of 47 percent.

The aggregate poverty deficit of children increased during these years because of a rise in both the incidence of their poverty and its average severity. In the case of Hispanic children (but not total children) there also was an underlying rise in population.

The per capita poverty gap of Hispanic children, although consistently lower than that of total children, rose relatively more than that of total children. It climbed from $819 in 1975 (1983 dollars) to $1,081 in 1983, an increase of 32 percent, compared to a rise of 18 percent for all poor children. (See table 4.5.) Moreover, the aggregate income deficit for Hispanic children increased 74 percent from 1975 to 1983, compared with a rise of 47 percent for all children over the same period.

23/ This section calculates poverty deficits of children (not families with children, as was done for 1983 in chapter 3). It divides a family's total income deficit equally among family members and then totals pro-rata deficits of children.

TABLE 4.5. Poverty Income Deficits for All Children and Hispanic Children, 1975-1983
(constant 1983 dollars) a/

Year	All Hispanic children under 18		All children under 18	
	Aggregate income deficit (millions)	Per capita deficit	Aggregate income deficit (millions)	Per capita deficit
1983	$2,334	$1,081	$15,869	$1,149
1982	2,253	1,034	15,623	1,145
1981	1,896	985	13,688	1,095
1980	1,685	960	12,431	1,076
1979	1,388	918	10,721	1,060
1978	1,263	913	11,721	1,148
1977	1,144	804	10,187	998
1976	1,190	825	9,750	951
1975	1,342	819	10,786	973
Percentage change				
1975-1983	+74	+32	+47	+18

a/ For aggregate poverty income deficits of non-Hispanic white and black children, 1975-1983, see appendix table B-4.

Effects of Marital Status on Poverty of Children in Female-Headed Household Heads. Although children living in female-headed families in general are at much higher risk of living in poverty, poverty rates vary substantially within female-headed families, depending on the marital status of the mother. Table 4.6 shows the poverty rates in 1983 for children whose mothers were divorced or separated, never married, or widowed. Among Hispanics and non-Hispanics of either race, children whose mothers are never married were subject to the highest poverty rates, followed by children whose mothers were divorced or separated, then widowed. Poverty rates for Hispanic children with never-married mothers were nearly twice as high as the rates for those with widowed

mothers; among non-Hispanic white children the rates were more than three times as high. This disparity was much smaller among non-Hispanic black children.

TABLE 4.6. Poverty Rates for Children a/ in Female-Headed Families, by Marital Status of Mother, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1983

Marital status of mother	Poverty rates by race and Hispanic origin		
	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic white	Non-Hispanic black
Divorced or separated	73.3	42.4	66.7
Never married	85.3	65.4	78.7
Widowed	45.0	20.8	57.0
Total	73.6	42.3	69.9

a/ Own Related Children.

Note: Table prepared by CRS using data from the March 1984 Current Population Survey.

Among children whose mothers were never married, or divorced or separated, Hispanic children had higher poverty rates than either non-Hispanic whites or blacks. Among children whose mothers were widowed, however, Hispanic poverty rates fell between those of non-Hispanic whites and non-Hispanic blacks.

The share of all children in the different types of female-headed families varied among the different race and ethnic groups. Hispanic children in these families were more likely to have divorced or separated mothers than were non-Hispanic black children (71.0 and 57.1 percent, respectively). (See table 4.7.) Hispanic children were less likely to have a never-married mother than non-Hispanic black children (21.4 and 36.8 percent, respectively). In contrast, non-Hispanic white children were much more likely to have divorced or separated

mothers (82.7 percent) and less likely to have never married mothers (7.4 percent) than either of the other two groups. In all three groups, fewer than 10 percent of children had widowed mothers.

TABLE 4.7. Composition of the Total and Poor Child Population a/ According to the Marital Status of the Female Head of Household, by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1983

Child population and marital status of female head	Percent of children in female-headed families, by race and Hispanic origin		
	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic white	Non-Hispanic black
Total own related children			
Divorced or separated	71.0	82.7	57.1
Never married	21.4	7.4	36.8
Widowed	7.6	9.9	6.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Poor own related children			
Divorced or separated	70.6	83.6	54.0
Never married	24.8	11.5	41.0
Widowed	4.6	4.9	5.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

a/ Own related children.

Note: Prepared by CRS using data from the March 1984 Current Population Survey.

The differential poverty rates and the composition of children in female-headed families affected the 1983 composition of poor children, as table 4.7 also shows. In all three groups examined, a disproportionate share of poor children had never-married mothers. Among Hispanic children, nearly 25 percent of poor children has such mothers, in contrast to 21 percent of all Hispanic children. Among non-Hispanic black children, 41 percent of poor children had

never-married mothers, in comparison to 37 percent of all children. For non-Hispanic white children, the figures were 12 and seven percent, respectively.

Birth Rates to Unmarried Women. The very high poverty rates among never-married women raise the issue of birth rates to unmarried women in these different population groups. Data on birth rates to Hispanic women are very sparse for two reasons. First, vital statistics on the number of births, produced by the National Center for Health Statistics, have only designated Hispanic origin since 1978. Over the years since, the number of States obtaining these data has increased, but the available data are not consistent from year to year. Second, population estimates needed to estimate the actual rates are not yet produced by the Bureau of the Census for Hispanics in the years between the decennial censuses. Consequently, trend data on birth rates are not available for examination. However, rates are available for 1980 (based on 1980 Census population counts), and they show some important differences between Hispanics and non-Hispanics, and whites and blacks.

Table 4.8 shows that in 1980 birth rates to unmarried Hispanic women were higher than for non-Hispanic women for all age groups. Birth rates to unmarried Hispanic women were between those of the total white and black population 24/. At younger ages, Hispanic women had lower rates of births out of wedlock than black women in general, but at older ages, this reversed so that Hispanic women had higher rates after age 30. However, at these ages, relatively few women were unmarried. Thus, the difference in rates implied a much smaller numerical difference than the same rate difference would for younger women, when many are unmarried.

24/ These figures include Hispanics, and so are biased in the direction of the Hispanic rates: upward for whites and downward for blacks.

TABLE 4.8. Birth Rates for Unmarried Women by Age, Race, and Hispanic Origin of Mother a/: 1980

Age of mother	Birth rates b/ to unmarried women by race and Hispanic origin				
	Total	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Total white c/	Total black c/
15-19	29.1	39.7	27.7	16.2	89.2
15-17	21.7	28.3	20.8	11.8	69.6
18-19	41.4	60.5	39.0	23.6	120.2
20-24	42.5	76.5	38.7	24.4	115.1
25-29	34.2	71.1	30.2	20.7	83.9
30-34	22.0	53.9	18.5	13.6	48.2
35-44	6.9	19.6	5.5	4.5	13.5

a/ Birth rate estimates based on total of 22 reporting States.

b/ Births per 1,000 unmarried women in specified groups.

c/ Includes mothers of Hispanic origin.

Note: U.S. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital and Health Statistics. Birth and Fertility Rates for States, United States, 1980. National Vital Statistics System, Series 21, No. 42. DHHS Pub. No. (PHS) 84-1920. Public Health Service. Washington, U.S. Govt. Print. Off., Sept. 1984.

B. How Is Children's Poverty Related to the Educational Status of Their Parents?

When parents have not completed high school, their children are much more likely to be poor. Table 4.9 shows that in 1983 Hispanic children (in married-couple families) whose father failed to complete high school were nearly three times as likely to be poor as were children whose father had completed high school (38.0 and 13.3 percent, respectively). Hispanic children whose fathers had attended some college had poverty rates about half as high as those whose father had stopped after completing high school (8.7 and 16.5 percent, respectively), but higher than those of non-Hispanic fathers, black or white, with some college. More than one out of three Hispanic children whose father failed

to complete high school was poor compared with more than 25 percent of non-Hispanic white children in this situation and with 42 percent of non-Hispanic black children. Among non-Hispanic whites, the poverty rate for children whose father had not finished high school was more than triple that for children of graduates.

TABLE 4.9. Poverty Rates Among Children in Married-Couple and Single Female-Headed Families by Race, Hispanic Origin and Parents' Education a/: 1983

Parents' educational attainment	Child poverty rates by race and Hispanic origin			
	Total	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic white	Non-Hispanic black
Married-couple families (total)	12.7	26.5	9.9	21.7
Father's education only:				
Failed to complete high school b/	31.5	38.0	25.3	41.7
Completed high school	8.3	13.3	7.3	14.3
High school diploma only	11.9	16.5	10.4	19.8
Completed some college c/	5.1	8.7	4.7	6.4
Father and mother's education:				
Neither completed high school b/	39.6	41.4	33.2	48.8
Only mother completed high school	20.4	25.3	17.8	33.2
Only father completed high school	22.1	21.5	19.7	34.7
Both completed high school	6.9	10.2	6.2	11.9
Single female-headed families (total)	55.4	74.0	42.1	70.5
Mother's education:				
Failed to complete high school b/	81.3	83.5	71.3	90.3
Completed high school	42.6	54.6	33.2	58.6
High school diploma only	48.7	63.8	37.8	65.7
Completed some college c/	30.4	33.9	24.8	41.7

a/ Based on highest year of schooling completed.

b/ Includes persons who did not start high school.

c/ Includes persons who were graduated from college.

Note: Table prepared by CRS using data from the March 1984 Current Population Survey. Data are for "own related children" in primary and secondary families only.

If neither parent in an Hispanic married couple had completed high school, more than 41 percent of Hispanic children were likely to be poor, a rate more than four times above that of children whose mother and father both had completed high school (10.2 percent).

Poverty rates among children in female-headed families were very high in 1983, regardless of whether the mother had or had not completed high school. Hispanic children whose mother had not completed high school were about 53 percent more likely to be poor than were children whose mother had finished. When the mother had attended some college, the poverty rate among children was reduced by nearly half from that of children whose mother stopped school after receiving a high school diploma.

Poverty rates for Hispanic children in female-headed families were substantially higher than those for non-Hispanic white children regardless of their mother's education, but the difference was greater for those whose mothers completed high school. For Hispanic children whose mothers did not complete high school, the rates were more than one-sixth higher than for such non-Hispanic white children; for children whose mothers did complete high school Hispanic poverty rates were 1.6 times as high as those of non-Hispanic whites. The rates for non-Hispanic black children were about seven to eight percent higher than for Hispanic children, regardless of whether or not their mothers completed high school. However, children whose single mothers completed some college, poverty rates for non-Hispanic blacks were 23 percent higher than for Hispanics.

The very high poverty rates for children whose parents have not completed high school raise the question: What proportion of parents in each group did not complete high school? Table 4.10 shows the percentage of all children whose parents were in each of the three educational attainment categories 25/ shown in the preceding table. In married-couple families, which account for three/fourths of Hispanic children, over 53 percent of Hispanic children in

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25/ These three categories (failed to complete high school, received high school diploma only, completed some college) are broad classifications. They do not distinguish between the person who left school at 12 and another who stayed until 17, nor between a college graduate and a persons who stopped college after the first year.

1983 had fathers who had not completed high school, a rate more than triple that among non-Hispanic white children and almost double that among non-Hispanic black children. In married-couple families more than 42 percent of Hispanic children had two parents without a high school diploma, a rate six times that of non-Hispanic whites and almost triple that of non-Hispanic blacks. Hispanic children living in female-headed families had an even higher percentage of mothers who had not completed high school; 67.1 percent of children in such families had mothers without a high school diploma. In contrast, among non-Hispanic white and black children, 23.4 and 37.7 percent, respectively, lived with mothers who had not completed high school.

These high rates of parental failure to achieve high school graduation, ranging from almost double to six times those of their black or white counterparts, confront Hispanic children with a severe disadvantage and are a major obstable to reducing their poverty.

TABLE 4.10. Educational Attainment of Children's Parents in Married-Couple and Single Female-Headed Families by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1983

Parents' educational attainment	Percent of children by race and Hispanic origin			
	Total	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic white	Non-Hispanic black
Married-couple families (total)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Father's education only:				
Failed to complete high school a/	19.0	53.2	14.3	27.1
Completed high school	81.0	46.8	85.7	72.9
High school diploma only	37.9	27.6	39.1	42.7
Completed some college b/	43.1	19.3	46.6	30.2
Father and mother's education:				
Neither completed high school a/	11.0	42.1	7.0	14.8
Only mother completed high school	8.0	11.0	7.4	12.3
Only father completed high school	7.5	12.9	6.8	7.6
Both completed high school	73.6	33.9	78.9	65.3
Single female-headed families (total)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mother's education:				
Failed to complete high school a/	33.2	67.1	23.4	37.7
Completed high school	66.8	32.9	76.6	62.3
High school diploma only	44.4	22.8	49.3	43.8
Completed some college b/	22.4	10.1	27.3	18.5

a/ Includes persons who did not start high school.

b/ Includes persons who were graduated from college.

Note: Table prepared by CRS using data from the March 1984 Current Population Survey. Data are for "own related children" in primary and secondary families only.

C. Does the Age of Parents Affect Poverty Among Children?

In general, children of younger parents are more likely to be poor than those of older parents, whether the children are living with both their mother and father or just their mother. In married-couple families, as table 4.11 shows, Hispanic children whose father is under age 30 are more than 26 percent more likely to be poor than if their father is over that age (with rates of

31.8 and 25.1 percent, respectively). Among non-Hispanic white children the effect is even greater; children of younger fathers are over 72 percent more likely to be poor than children of older fathers (15.2 and 8.8 percent, respectively). Among non-Hispanic black children, the age of the father does not seem to make a substantial difference in the poverty rates of their children.

TABLE 4.11. Poverty Rates Among Children in Married-Couple and Single Female-Headed Families According to Race, Hispanic Origin and Age of Family Head: 1983

	Poverty rates by age of head	
	Less than 30	30 or older
Married-couple families a/		
Total	18.1	11.5
Hispanic	31.8	25.1
Non-Hispanic white	15.2	8.8
Non-Hispanic black	21.5	21.8
Female-headed families b/		
Total	73.1	47.5
Hispanic	87.4	68.4
Non-Hispanic white	64.7	34.1
Non-Hispanic black	78.9	65.0

a/ Age of father.

b/ Age of mother.

Note: Table prepared by CRS using data from the March 1984 Current Population Survey. Data are for "own related children" in primary and secondary families only.

The same relationship holds with children in female-headed families. Hispanic children of younger mothers are nearly 28 percent more likely to be poor. Among non-Hispanic whites and blacks, children of younger mothers are 90 and 21 percent more likely to be poor, respectively, than are children of older mothers.

In general, Hispanic children have parents who are younger than those of non-Hispanic white children but older than those of non-Hispanic black children. Table 4.12 shows the 1983 composition of the child population according to the age of their father (in married-couple families) or mother (in female-headed families). About 24 percent of Hispanic children had parents under age 30, compared to 20 percent of non-Hispanic white children and 32 percent of non-Hispanic black children. These figures vary according to the type of family, with female-headed families younger than married couple families, but the relationship among the three groups remains the same.

TABLE 4.12. Age of Children's Parents by Family Type, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1983

Family type, race and Hispanic origin	Percent of children by age of head		
	Total	Less than 30	30 or older
Married-couple families			
Total	100.0	17.7	82.3
Hispanic	100.0	20.6	79.4
Non-Hispanic white	100.0	17.2	82.8
Non-Hispanic black	100.0	21.5	78.5
Female-headed families			
Total	100.0	31.1	68.9
Hispanic	100.0	29.4	70.3
Non-Hispanic white	100.0	26.0	74.0
Non-Hispanic black	100.0	39.8	60.2
All families			
Total	100.0	21.7	78.3
Hispanic	100.0	23.7	76.3
Non-Hispanic white	100.0	19.9	80.1
Non-Hispanic black	100.0	32.2	67.8

Note: Table prepared by CRS using data from the March 1984 Current Population Survey.

This finding is in some respects counterintuitive, because fertility rates are higher among Hispanic women than among either white or black non-Hispanic women. The total fertility rate for Hispanic women in 1980 was 2.534, compared to 1.692 among non-Hispanic white women and 2.354 among non-Hispanic black women. 26/ Generally, higher fertility rates are associated with younger populations, and that is the case since in 1980 the Hispanic population had a median age of 23.2, and the median ages for non-Hispanic whites and non-Hispanic blacks were 31.7 and 24.9 respectively. 27/ Why, then, are the ages of parents discrepant?

Several factors must be operating together to cause this phenomenon. Changing patterns of marriage, divorce and childbearing among black women lead a disproportionate number of young black mothers to be single. Thus, a very high percentage of non-Hispanic black children in female-headed families had young mothers. In addition, Hispanics, though they have high birth rates overall, have a different pattern of bearing children over the course of a lifetime than either non-Hispanic blacks or whites. Before they have reached age 25, black women had more than half the children they will ultimately bear, in comparison to Hispanic and non-Hispanic white women who have had only 35 to 40 percent of all the children they will bear. Non-Hispanic white women have their highest birth rates in the second half of their twenties, so that by age 30

26/ The total fertility rate indicates the total number of children a woman would bear over her lifetime if she were subject to the same age specific rates observed in a single calendar year. The data source for the fertility rates is National Center for Health Statistics. Birth and Fertility Rates for States, United States, 1980. Vital and Health Statistics. Series 21, No. 42. DHHS Pub. No. (PHS)84-1920, Public Health Service. Washington. U.S. Govt. Print. Off., Sept. 1984. Table 6.

27/ U. S. Bureau of the Census. 1980 Census of Population. Volume 1, Characteristics of the Population. PC80-1-C1. U. S. Summary. Washington. U. S. Govt. Print. Off., 1983.

they are not much different from non-Hispanic black women in terms of percent of childbearing completed (nearly 80 percent). Hispanic women, however, at age 30 have completed only about 73 percent of their childbearing; they tend not only to have higher birth rates overall, but also to spread their childbearing over a longer period. As a result, more children are born to older women, and relatively more mothers are over age 30, both when their children are born and until their youngest child reaches adulthood. These tendencies are sufficient to increase the percentage of Hispanic children who have older parents above that of non-Hispanic black children, while keeping it below that of non-Hispanic white children.

The higher poverty rates among younger families, in combination with the age distribution of the parents of children, affect the composition of the poor children according to the age of their parents, as table 4.13 shows. Poor children have younger parents than children as a whole; this is true for both Hispanics and non-Hispanics. However, the persistently high poverty rates among Hispanic and non-Hispanic black children with older parents lead to relatively more poor children in these groups with older parents than is the case with non-Hispanic white children. The combination of these high poverty rates and a relatively high proportion of all children in female-headed families with older parents lead to a comparatively high proportion of Hispanic poor children in female-headed families with older mothers.

TABLE 4.13. Age of Poor Children's Parents by Family Type, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1983

Family type, race and Hispanic origin	Percent of poor children by age of head		
	Total	Less than 30	30 or older
Married-couple families			
Total	100.0	25.2	74.8
Hispanic	100.0	24.7	75.3
Non-Hispanic white	100.0	26.4	73.6
Non-Hispanic black	100.0	21.3	78.7
Female-headed families			
Total	100.0	41.0	59.0
Hispanic	100.0	34.8	65.2
Non-Hispanic white	100.0	40.0	60.0
Non-Hispanic black	100.0	44.5	55.5
All families			
Total	100.0	34.4	65.6
Hispanic	100.0	30.1	69.9
Non-Hispanic white	100.0	33.3	66.7
Non-Hispanic black	100.0	40.0	60.0

Note: Prepared by CRS using data from the March 1984 Current Population Survey. Data are for children in primary and secondary families only.

D. How Does Family Size Affect Poverty Among Hispanic Children?

As discussed elsewhere 28/, family size affects poverty rates among children in two ways: first, by increasing the level of income a family needs to rise out of poverty and second, by contributing more children to the count of children in poverty.

Hispanic children tend to live in larger families than non-Hispanic white or black children. Table 4.14 shows that the since the mid-1970s the size of

28/ Children in Poverty, p. 85 ff.

the families in which Hispanic children live has not decreased as much as that of non-Hispanic children, black or white. In 1975, almost 39 percent of Hispanic children lived in families with four or more children, and by 1983 that figure had declined to 28.4 percent, a decrease of 27 percent. The decline in the share of children living in large families for non-Hispanic whites was 46 percent (from 22.7 to 12.3 percent) and the decline for non-Hispanic blacks was 43 percent (from 42.7 to 24.2 percent).

TABLE 4.14. Percentage Composition of Children a/ by Family Size, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1975 to 1983

Year	Percentage composition by race and family size											
	Hispanic			Non-Hispanic white			Non-Hispanic black			Total b/		
	Overall (thousands)	1-3 Children	4+ Children	Overall (thousands)	1-3 Children	4+ Children	Overall (thousands)	1-3 Children	4+ Children	Overall (thousands)	1-3 Children	4+ Children
1983	5,083	71.6%	28.4%	43,037	87.7%	12.3%	7,585	75.8%	24.2%	57,602	84.3%	15.7%
1982	5,007	69.7%	30.3%	43,137	87.6%	12.4%	7,582	73.6%	26.4%	57,551	83.9%	16.1%
1981	4,870	68.9%	31.1%	43,741	86.8%	13.2%	7,681	71.7%	28.3%	57,969	83.0%	17.0%
1980	4,931	68.8%	31.2%	44,578	86.0%	14.0%	7,701	70.2%	29.8%	58,757	82.2%	17.8%
1979	5,062	70.9%	29.1%	43,799	84.6%	15.4%	7,655	68.3%	31.7%	57,769	81.0%	19.0%
1978	4,671	68.6%	31.4%	46,756	83.2%	16.8%	7,644	65.8%	34.2%	58,297	79.6%	20.4%
1977	4,738	67.5%	32.5%	45,922	81.4%	18.6%	7,733	63.0%	37.0%	58,506	77.8%	22.2%
1976	4,486	66.9%	33.1%	47,095	79.1%	20.9%	7,803	58.6%	41.4%	60,470	75.4%	24.6%
1975	4,627	61.3%	38.7%	47,974	77.3%	22.7%	7,766	57.3%	42.7%	61,615	73.2%	26.8%

a/ Own related children.

b/ Total includes "other non-Hispanic children."

Note: Prepared by CRS using data from the March supplement to the Current Population Survey for each year.

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In combination with higher poverty rates in larger families, the slower decline in family sizes tended to maintain the relatively high poverty rate of Hispanic children. Table 4.15 shows that poverty rates have been consistently higher in larger families. However, in the period of generally rising poverty rates, the rates increased faster in smaller families than in larger ones, except among non-Hispanic whites. Among Hispanic children in families with 1 to 3 children, poverty rates increased by nearly 52 percent between 1978 and 1983 (from 20.3 to 30.8 percent). Poverty rates in larger families increased by 34 percent (from 41.2 to 55.2 percent). In both cases the rates decreased from 1982 to 1983. Among non-Hispanic white children, the increases were 61 and 76 percent, respectively, in smaller and larger families. For non-Hispanic black children, the increases in poverty rates were 25 and 9 percent, respectively.

TABLE 4.15. Poverty Rates by Family Size, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1975 to 1983

	Poverty rates by race and family Size								
	Hispanic		Non-Hispanic white		Non-Hispanic black		Total a/		
Year	1-3 children	4+ children	1-3 children	4+ children	1-3 children	4+ children	1-3 children	4+ children	Overall
1983	30.8	55.2	12.4	26.8	38.9	64.7	17.1	40.8	20.8
1982	32.1	55.6	11.7	27.6	37.9	68.8	16.3	41.8	20.4
1981	26.2	55.9	10.8	21.8	35.2	63.8	14.8	37.3	18.6
1980	24.3	52.3	9.7	20.1	33.1	59.9	13.4	34.2	17.1
1979	21.0	42.4	7.9	17.5	31.2	59.7	11.7	30.7	15.3
1978	20.3	41.2	7.7	15.2	31.0	59.3	11.2	28.5	14.8
1977	21.2	41.7	7.7	16.7	30.5	57.2	11.1	28.9	15.1
1976	22.3	45.6	7.6	15.9	30.5	53.9	11.0	27.6	15.1
1975	23.5	47.3	8.1	17.7	30.4	55.1	11.4	29.1	16.1

a/ Total includes "other non-Hispanic children."

Note: Prepared by CRS using data from the March supplement to the Current Population Survey for each year.

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In 1983, poverty rates among Hispanic children in larger families were almost 80 percent higher than in smaller families. The family size differential was greater among non-Hispanic white children and smaller among non-Hispanic black children. In both family size categories, poverty rates were higher among non-Hispanic black children than among Hispanic children.

The higher poverty rates in large families mean that a disproportionate number of poor children will live in large families. Table 4.16 shows that for Hispanic children, the combined effects of larger family size and high poverty rates lead to a larger share of poor children living in families with four or more children. In 1983, 42 percent of poor Hispanic children lived in these families, in contrast with 28 percent of all Hispanic children. Among poor non-Hispanic black children, 35 percent lived in larger families, compared to 24 percent of all non-Hispanic black children. Non-Hispanic white children are subject to the same tendency; 23 percent of these poor children lived in larger families compared to 12 percent of all children.

TABLE 4.14. Percentage Composition of Poor Children a/ by Family Size, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1975 to 1983

	Composition by race and family size											
	Hispanic			Non-Hispanic white			Non-Hispanic black			Total b/		
Year	Overall (thousands)	1-3 children	4+ children	Overall (thousands)	1-3 children	4+ children	Overall (thousands)	1-3 children	4+ children	Overall (thousands)	1-3 children	4+ children
1983	1,917	58.5%	41.5%	4,082	76.7%	23.3%	3,426	65.3%	34.7%	11,860	69.2%	30.8%
1982	1,962	57.0%	43.0%	5,893	74.9%	25.1%	3,494	60.6%	39.4%	11,751	66.9%	33.1%
1981	1,726	50.9%	49.1%	5,353	76.5%	23.5%	3,329	58.3%	41.7%	10,794	65.9%	34.1%
1980	1,595	50.5%	49.5%	4,964	74.6%	25.4%	3,166	56.6%	43.4%	10,068	64.4%	35.6%
1979	1,379	54.6%	45.4%	4,116	71.3%	28.7%	3,081	53.0%	47.0%	9,321	63.9%	36.1%
1978	1,255	51.8%	48.2%	4,023	71.7%	28.3%	3,110	50.1%	49.9%	8,607	60.6%	39.4%
1977	1,316	51.2%	48.8%	4,311	67.0%	33.0%	3,122	47.6%	52.4%	8,957	57.3%	42.7%
1976	1,346	49.7%	50.3%	4,387	64.5%	35.5%	3,139	44.5%	55.5%	9,122	55.0%	45.0%
1975	1,512	44.1%	55.9%	4,937	61.0%	39.0%	3,291	41.2%	58.8%	9,931	51.6%	48.4%
Percentage Change												
1975-1983	26.8%	32.8%	-25.8%	23.2%	25.7%	-40.2%	4.1%	58.7%	-41.0%	20.5%	34.1%	-36.3%
1978-1983	52.8%	13.0%	-14.0%	51.2%	7.0%	-17.6%	10.1%	30.3%	-30.4%	38.1%	14.2%	-21.9%

a/ Own related children.

b/ Total includes "other non-Hispanic children."

Note: Prepared by CRS using data from the March supplement to the Current Population Survey for each year.

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The share of poor children in larger families has been declining over time, however, in all groups. Poverty rates have risen faster in smaller families and family size has declined so that the share of children exposed to the higher risk of poverty has declined. Whereas in 1975 almost 56 percent of all poor Hispanic children lived in larger families, by 1983 that had declined to 41.5 percent. Among non-Hispanic blacks, the share of poor children in larger families declined from 58.8 to 34.7 percent over the same period, and among non-Hispanic whites, from 39.0 to 23.3 percent.

E. How Do Demographic Factors Combine To Affect Poverty Rates?

The previous sections have demonstrated that children who differ on individual characteristics are subject to different risks of living in poverty. These characteristics can be examined in combination to identify more specifically the composition of poor children in comparison to the population as a whole and to provide more detail about the poverty rates of specific groups of children. Chart 4.5 shows the composition of the total and poor child population as well as poverty rates for different groups of children. 29/ Information is shown for Hispanic, non-Hispanic white, and non-Hispanic black children. The characteristics examined in combination are race and Hispanic origin, family type, and family size. Data are provided for 1975 and 1983 to demonstrate changes in the effects of characteristics over this period.

29/ The concept for this data presentation is drawn from Sheldon Danziger. Children in Poverty: the Truly Needy Who Fall Through the Safety Net. Institute for Research on Poverty Discussion Papers. University of Wisconsin-Madison. November 1981.

CHART 4.5. Distribution of Children a/ and Incidence of Poverty

1975

Total

100.0--Composition of total child population
100.0—Composition of poor child population
16.1--Poverty rate

Hispanic				Non-Hispanic White				Non-Hispanic Black			
7.5				77.9				12.9			
15.2				49.7				33.1			
32.7				10.3				41.3			
Male-present		Female-headed		Male-present		Female-headed		Male-present		Female-Headed	
6.0		1.5		69.9		8.0		7.5		5.4	
8.9		6.3		29.5		20.2		10.1		23.1	
23.7		69.2		6.8		40.9		21.6		68.6	
1-3 ildren	4+ Children	1-3 Children	4+ Children	1-3 Children	4+ Children	1-3 Children	4+ Children	1-3 Children	4+ Children	1-3 Children	4+ Children
.7	2.3	0.9	0.6	53.8	16.1	6.4	1.6	4.3	3.2	2.9	2.5
3.6	5.3	3.1	3.2	16.2	13.3	14.1	6.1	3.3	6.8	10.4	12.7
5.4	37.3	58.5	84.5	4.9	13.3	35.5	62.6	12.3	34.1	57.0	82.1

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1983

Total

100.0--Composition of total child population
100.0--Composition of poor child population
20.8--Poverty rate

Hispanic				Non-Hispanic White				Non-Hispanic Black			
8.8				74.7				13.2			
16.0				50.8				28.6			
37.7				14.1				45.2			
Male-present		Female-headed		Male-present		Female-headed		Male-present		Female-headed	
6.8		2.0		65.4		9.4		6.9		6.3	
8.8		7.2		31.8		19.0		7.4		21.2	
27.0		73.6		10.1		42.3		22.4		69.9	
1-3 Children	4+ Children	1-3 Children	4+ Children	1-3 Children	4+ Children	1-3 Children	4+ Children	1-3 Children	4+ Children	1-3 Children	4+ Children
4.9	1.9	1.5	0.6	57.1	8.2	8.4	1.0	5.3	1.6	4.7	1.6
4.6	4.2	4.7	2.4	23.0	8.8	16.0	3.1	4.1	3.3	14.6	6.6
13.3	44.9	67.1	90.8	5.1	22.2	39.5	66.5	10.6	43.3	64.4	86.0

a/ Own related children. Percentages do not add to 100 because the chart does not include "other non-Hispanic."

Note: Prepared by CRS using data from the March 1984 Current Population Survey.

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The first number in each cell of the chart shows the composition of the total child population; the second number shows the composition of the poor child population. The third number shows the poverty rate for that group. To take an example, the chart for 1975 shows that 2.3 percent of all children are Hispanic and live in male-present families with four or more children. However, 5.3 percent of all poor children live in such families. The poverty rate for these children is 37.3 percent.

Several notable differences between 1975 and 1983 appear from these data. Hispanic children in general increased as a share of all children, and, to a lesser extent, as a share of poor children. The proportion of Hispanic children living in female-headed families was greater in 1983 (2.0 percent of all own related children compared to 1.5 percent in 1975). As a result, they formed a greater share of the poor child population, 7.2 percent of all poor children compared to 6.3 percent in the earlier year. Among Hispanic children in female-headed families, the increase in the proportion of those in smaller families was greater than the increase in the proportion in larger families. As a result, the share of Hispanic poor children in smaller female-headed families increased from 3.1 to 4.7 percent of all poor children, an increase of more than 50 percent. Poverty rates for this group of children increased by nearly 15 percent between these two years, from 58.5 to 67.1 percent.

Among all race and ethnic groups, the proportion of children in female-headed families increased from 1975 to 1983. The increase amounted to 33 percent for Hispanic children, almost double the 17 percent increase shown by Hispanic black and white children in the share of all children living in female-headed families. As a result of changes in the share of children in the population in combination with differential increases in poverty rates, the only two groups to increase as a share of the population of poor children were Hispanic

children in female-headed families (whose share increased by 14 percent, from 6.3 to 7.2 percent) and non-Hispanic white children in male-present families (whose share increased by 8 percent, from 29.5 to 31.8 percent). In the first case, the increased share is dominated by the increase in the share of all children with these characteristics. In the latter case, it is dominated by the relatively large increase in the poverty rate for these children (an increase of 49 percent, from 6.8 to 10.1 percent) and the very high share of all children living in these families (65.4 percent in 1983).

Within both male-present and female-headed families in all groups shown, the share of children living in small families increased between these two years. The share of all children in large families declined sharply among non-Hispanic whites and blacks, but remained constant at 0.6 percent for Hispanic children in female-headed families. As a combined result of the trends of declining family size and poverty rate increases, in all cases the share of poor children in small families increased. That increase was particularly sharp among Hispanic children; the share of poor children in small male-present families increased by 28 percent (from 3.6 to 4.6 percent) and the share in small female-headed families increased by more than 50 percent (from 3.1 to 4.7 percent).

In sum, the major demographic factors operating here were the increasing share of children in Hispanic families, an increasing share of children in female-headed families, and generally decreasing family size. The largest increase in the share of poor children was of Hispanic children in small, female-headed families, reflecting the combined operation of these factors.

Also as a result of the changes in race and ethnic composition, family type, and family size, the composition of the poor child population differs quite substantially from that of the child population in general. The poor

child population is relatively overrepresented in large families and in female-headed families. The only type of children who consistently show a smaller share of poor children than they represent in the entire child population are those in small, male-present families; this is the case for all race and ethnic groups.

F. What If There Were No Demographic Differences Among These Groups--What Would Their Poverty Rates Have Been?

The preceding discussion has demonstrated that there are important demographic differences between Hispanics and non-Hispanics in characteristics that affect their poverty rates. What would the poverty rates of different race and ethnic groups be if they did not vary in these characteristics? This can be answered by estimating standardized poverty rates for the different groups.

Standardized poverty rates for 1983 were calculated by assuming that each group (Hispanic, non-Hispanic white, and non-Hispanic black children) had the same characteristics as the total child population, but that the actual poverty rates observed for children with certain characteristics in each group did not change. That is, the distribution of children in each group according to the characteristics was adjusted, but the poverty rates for the groups were not. The characteristics used in this analysis were family type (male-present versus female-headed), age of parents (under 30 versus 30 and over), and family size (three or fewer children versus four or more children). For example, the standardized rates were calculated assuming that the same percentage of Hispanic children live in male-present families with fathers under age 30 and three or

fewer children as are observed in the total child population. But the calculations assume that the poverty rates observed for these Hispanic children are those observed in the survey. 30/

These standardized poverty rates provide a summary of the effects of the different demographic characteristics in each group on the total poverty rates observed for the group. Table 4.17 shows the standardized rates for each group. The combined effect of family type, family size, and age of parents on the poverty rate in 1983 for Hispanic children was to raise the poverty rate substantially. If Hispanic children had had the same characteristics as the total population, their poverty rate would have been 16 percent lower than the observed rate, or 31.8 rather than the actual 37.7. The effect of these demographic factors on non-Hispanic black children was even greater; their poverty rate would have been 37 percent lower than observed (28.5 rather than 45.2). The poverty rate among non-Hispanic white children would have been almost 20 percent higher than observed (16.9 rather than 14.1) if these children had the same distribution of characteristics as all children.

30/ To calculate the standardized rates, the percent distribution of total child population is calculated. That distribution shows what percent of all children have the different characteristics. The children are arranged in eight groups determined by the three either/or variables: family type, age of parents, and family size. For each family type (female-headed vs. male-present, four subdivisions are made: for parents less than 30, family size of three or fewer vs. 4 or more, and the same for family sizes among parents aged 30 or more). A hypothetical distribution of children in each race/ethnic group is then obtained by multiplying the total number of children in each group by the percent distribution of the characteristics for the total child population. This hypothetical distribution is then multiplied times the actual poverty rates for children in the race/ethnic group and with the specific characteristics, to provide a hypothetical number of poor children in each category. The sum of those poor children provides a hypothetical total number of poor children in each race/ ethnic group. That number is divided by the actual total number of children in the group to estimate a poverty rate for the group that is standardized according to these characteristics.

These figures also show that, with the observed poverty rates, if all groups had the same distribution of these demographic characteristics, Hispanics would have a higher poverty rate than either non-Hispanic whites or non-Hispanic blacks.

The standardization process does not reduce the poverty rate for Hispanic children as sharply as it does the rate for non-Hispanic black children. The demographic factors controlled for in the standardization (family type, family size, and age of head) do not have as great an effect on the actual poverty rate among Hispanics as among non-Hispanic blacks. This implies that other factors have a relatively greater effect on the Hispanic poverty rate. These factors would include parents' education, labor force participation, level of work effort, and marital status (of female heads), as well as other social and economic characteristics. None of these factors was controlled for in the standardization process.

TABLE 4.17. Comparison of Actual and Standardized a/ Poverty Rates Among Children b/ by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1983

Race and Hispanic origin	Actual poverty rate	Standardized poverty rate	Percent difference
Hispanic	37.7	31.8	-15.7%
Non-Hispanic white	14.1	16.9	+19.8%
Non-Hispanic black	45.2	28.5	-36.9%
Total	20.8	20.8	0.0

a/ Standardized for family type, family size, and age of head.

b/ Own-related children.

Note: Calculated by CRS using the March 1984 Current Population Survey.

CHAPTER 5. EARNINGS OF PARENTS OF HISPANIC CHILDREN

Chapter 4 concluded that if there were no differences among Hispanic and non-Hispanic black and white children regarding their distribution by family type, family size, and age of family head, an Hispanic child would be more likely to be poor than a non-Hispanic black child (as well as a non-Hispanic white child) (table 4.17). Why then are Hispanic children so prone to poverty? To explore this question, this chapter steps back to examine factors that affect parents' earnings, the principal source of family income, and, hence, the prime determinant of a child's poverty status.

Without a working parent a child is almost sure to be poor, but the jobs of many parents fail to overcome poverty. Children in Poverty found that 2.5 million children in 1982-83 were poor although they had at least one parent who worked more than 2,000 hours a year.

This chapter studies the earning patterns of Hispanic families with children and of non-Hispanic white and non-Hispanic black families with children, analyzing them by educational attainment of parents, family type, and age of parent. It examines annual hours of work by Hispanic fathers and mothers and their wages, comparing them to those of non-Hispanic parents. It compares the occupational patterns of Hispanic parents to those of non-Hispanics. Finally, the chapter discusses other factors that appear to be related to earnings of Hispanic parents, including recency of immigration and facility with the English language.

A. Market Income Poverty Rates

As noted earlier (chapter 3), more than two-fifths of the nation's Hispanic children would have been classified as "poor" in 1983 if their family had received no money other than earnings and other market income. Out of every 100 Hispanic children, 43 were in families whose earnings and other market income fell short of the poverty threshold. For non-Hispanic whites and blacks, the corresponding rates were 18 and 51 children per 100.

Throughout the period, 1975-1983, market income poverty rates for Hispanic children have been more than double those for non-Hispanic whites. Market income poverty rates for non-Hispanic black children were more than triple those of non-Hispanic white children until 1982.

TABLE 5.1. Market Income Poverty Rates a/ for All Children Under 18

	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic white	Non-Hispanic black	All children
1975	39.1	15.1	51.1	22.2
1976	36.1	13.2	48.5	20.3
1977	33.5	13.4	50.0	20.5
1978	31.7	12.9	49.4	20.0
1979	31.6	13.0	48.6	20.2
1980	37.5	15.0	48.2	22.0
1981	40.7	16.0	51.7	23.8
1982	44.9	17.6	53.1	25.6
1983	43.3	18.1	51.0	25.8
Percentage Change				
1975-1983	10.7	19.9	-0.2	16.2
1978-1983	36.6	40.3	3.2	29.0

a/ Includes income from sources such as earnings, dividends, interest, private and public pensions, alimony and child support.

NOTE: Table prepared by CRS using data derived from the March Current Population Survey, 1976-1984. Poverty rates for this table were calculated on the basis of the Census Bureau definition.

As table 5.1 shows, market income poverty rates of non-blacks rose especially sharply from 1978 to 1983: For Hispanic children, poverty rates in this period were up 36.6 percent; non-Hispanic whites, up 40.3 percent; non-Hispanic blacks, up 3.2 percent. One reason for the smaller increase in market income poverty rates among non-Hispanic black children between 1978 and 1983 is that, unlike non-blacks, a majority of black children live in mother-child families,

whose income and poverty status generally are less affected by fluctuation in the economy. For both minority groups market income poverty rates turned downward in 1983; their declines each amounted to 4 percent.

In the period, 1978-1983, the white male unemployment rate almost doubled and the non-white male unemployment rate rose by two-thirds, but the increase in female unemployment rates was much smaller. Children in Poverty found that changes in unemployment rates have affected the market income poverty rates of male-headed families, but not those of female headed families. 32/

Why are market income poverty rates for children, especially those in the two minority groups, so persistently high?

B. Annual Hours Worked

Hours Worked by Fathers. Hispanic fathers, on average, worked considerably fewer hours in 1983 than non-Hispanic white fathers, but more hours than non-Hispanic black fathers. (See table 5.2.) Hispanic fathers, on average, worked 1,764 hours that year, or 13 percent fewer hours than non-Hispanic white fathers (2,025 hours), but 6 percent more hours than non-Hispanic black fathers (1,660). Part of the overall difference in annual hours worked may be explained by differences in age and education among the groups. However, as the table shows, Hispanic fathers in the same educational and age group consistently worked fewer hours than white fathers, but more hours than black fathers.

32/ See Children in Poverty, p. 152-155.

TABLE 5.2. Mean Annual Hours Worked by Fathers, by Father's Race/Ethnicity, Education and Age: 1983

	Total	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic white	Non-Hispanic black
Total (All ages)	1,972	1,764	2,025	1,660
Failed to complete high school a/	1,663	1,675	1,720	1,388
Completed high school	2,040	1,851	2,076	1,755
High school diploma only	1,930	1,785	1,975	1,630
Completed some college b/	2,137	1,944	2,163	1,913
Total (Under age 30)	1,820	1,655	1,885	1,519
Failed to complete H.S. school a/	1,660	1,659	1,712	1,488
Completed high school	1,860	1,650	1,919	1,526
High school diploma only	1,810	1,651	1,871	1,493
Completed some college b/	1,949	1,648	2,002	1,599
Total (Age 30 and older)	2,011	1,804	2,059	1,704
Failed to complete high school a/	1,663	1,681	1,722	1,369
Completed high school	2,084	1,921	2,113	1,836
High school diploma only	1,974	1,842	2,012	1,697
Completed some college b/	2,166	2,019	2,187	1,984

a/ Includes persons who did not start high school
b/ Includes college graduates

Note: Table prepared by Congressional Research Service (CRS) using data from the March 1984 Current Population Survey. Data are for fathers with "own children" in primary and secondary married couple families only.

Hours Worked by Mothers. In the aggregate, Hispanic single and married mothers generally work fewer hours during the year than either their white or black counterparts (table 5.3). The fewer hours worked by Hispanic mothers seem, at least in part, to be related to their lower levels of education. However, the table shows that married Hispanic mothers who have completed high school tend to work as many hours as all married mothers.

Size of family may help account for the fewer hours worked by Hispanic mothers. As shown earlier, Hispanic women tend to have more children, which, if all other things were equal, would tend to lower the number of their work hours.

TABLE 5.3. Mean Annual Hours Worked by Mothers, by Mother's Race/Ethnicity, Education and Marital Status: 1983

	Total	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic white	Non-Hispanic black
Total (Married mothers)	913	758	900	1,164
Failed to complete high school a/	627	539	646	680
Completed high school	971	967	939	1,286
High school diploma only	911	905	889	1,149
Completed some college b/	1,050	1,095	1,006	1,452
Total (Single mothers)	1,096	734	1,260	900
Failed to complete high school a/	581	500	749	414
Completed high school	1,306	1,136	1,401	1,130
High school diploma only	1,212	1,018	1,332	988
Completed some college b/	1,479	1,393	1,520	1,413

a/ Includes persons who did not start high school
b/ Includes college graduates

Note: Table prepared by Congressional Research Service (CRS) using data from the March 1984 Current Population Survey. Data are for mothers with "own children" in primary and secondary families only.

C. Occupation 33/

Hispanic fathers and mothers are more likely to work in low skill, low wage jobs than are non-Hispanic white parents (see tables 5.4 and 5.5). The

33/ Occupation refers to the job that the individual held for the longest period during 1983. Data are shown only for those who worked at some time during the year.

largest proportion of Hispanic fathers (24.7 percent) worked in precision production, craft, and repair occupations in 1983, a percentage about equal to that of white non-Hispanic fathers. The proportion of Hispanic fathers who worked as machine operators, inspectors, or assemblers (15.7 percent) was double that of non-Hispanic white fathers (7.8 percent). Only about 10 percent worked in farm occupations in 1983. However, compared to white non-Hispanic fathers, Hispanic fathers were more than twice as likely to work in farm occupations. Hispanic fathers were twice as likely to work as handlers, cleaners, helpers and laborers as white non-Hispanic fathers, but less likely than black non-Hispanic fathers) to work in such jobs. Hispanic fathers were underrepresented in "white collar" occupations--managerial, administrative, and professional. Only about 6.8 percent of Hispanic fathers were in executive, administrative, and managerial occupations, compared to 15.9 percent of white non-Hispanic fathers and 9.2 percent of black non-Hispanic fathers. Similarly, only 4 percent were in professional and specialty occupations, compared to 13.7 percent of white and 6.9 percent of black non-Hispanic fathers.

More than one-fourth of mothers, whether Hispanic, non-Hispanic white, or non-Hispanic black, worked in administrative support and clerical occupations in 1983. One-sixth of Hispanic mothers and non-Hispanic white mothers worked in service occupations (except household and protective). For blacks, the percentage in this group exceeded 20 percent.

Another one-sixth of Hispanic mothers worked as machine operators, assemblers, inspectors; and one-tenth, in sales occupations. Hispanic mothers were only half as likely as all mothers to work in professional speciality occupations, or as technicians and in related support occupations.

Table 5.4. Distribution of Occupations a/ by Fathers in Married Couples b/ Who Worked in 1983

	Father's Race--Ethnicity			
	Total	Hispanic (Total)	Non-Hispanic white	Non-Hispanic black
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Executive, administrative, and managerial occupation	14.8	6.8	15.9	9.2
Professional specialty occupations	12.7	4.0	13.7	6.9
Technicians and related support occupations	2.7	1.4	2.7	2.6
Sales occupations	10.3	5.2	11.2	4.9
Administrative support occupations, including clerical	4.5	5.5	4.1	8.6
Private household service occupations	.0	.2	.0	.0
Protective service occupations	2.6	1.8	2.7	3.6
Service occupations, except household and protective	3.7	9.2	2.7	8.8
Farming, forestry, and fishing occupations	4.7	10.3	4.3	4.2
Precision production, craft, and repair occupations	23.0	24.7	23.6	15.8
Machine operator, assemblers, and inspectors	8.7	15.7	7.8	12.4
Transportation and material moving occupations	7.6	8.3	7.3	12.8
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers and laborers	4.4	6.8	3.7	10.2
Armed forces, currently civilian	.2	.2	.0	.0

a/ Occupation of longest held job during the year.
b/ Primary and secondary families only.

Source: March 1984 Current Population Survey (CPS). Table prepared by CRS.

Table 5.5. Distribution of Occupations a/ of Mothers b/ Who Worked in 1983

	Mother's Race--Ethnicity			
	Total	Hispanic (Total)	Non-Hispanic White	Non-Hispanic Black
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Executive, administrative, and managerial occupation	7.5	3.8	8.1	4.9
Professional specialty occupations	15.6	7.3	16.6	13.0
Technicians and related support occupations	3.3	2.4	3.3	3.0
Sales occupations	11.7	9.9	12.6	6.5
Administrative support occupations, including clerical	28.4	25.8	29.0	27.4
Private household service occupations	1.5	2.6	1.2	3.1
Protective service occupations	.4	.5	.3	.5
Service occupations, except household and protective	16.8	17.9	15.9	23.1
Farming, forestry, and fishing occupations	1.6	5.3	1.4	1.0
Precision production, craft, and repair occupations	2.4	3.4	2.2	2.6
Machine operator, assemblers, and inspectors	8.1	17.4	6.6	11.8
Transportation and material moving occupations	1.1	.9	1.1	1.1
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers and laborers	1.5	2.8	1.4	1.9
Armed forces, currently civilian	.1	.0	.0	.2

a/ Occupation of longest held job during the year.
b/ Primary and secondary families only.

Source: March 1984 Current Population Survey (CPS). Table prepared by CRS.

D. Hourly Earnings

Hourly Earnings of Fathers. Overall, hourly earnings of Hispanic fathers averaged $8.66, 26 percent below hourly earnings of non-Hispanic white fathers and 2 percent below those of non-Hispanic black fathers (table 5.6). As noted in earlier sections, Hispanic fathers tend to be younger, and to have fewer years of education than either non-Hispanic black or white fathers. Hispanic fathers in the same age and educational group earned more per hour than non-Hispanic black fathers, but less than non-Hispanic white fathers.

TABLE 5.6. Mean Hourly Earnings of Fathers in Married Couple Families, by Father's Race/Ethnicity, Education and Age: 1983

	Total	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic white	Non-Hispanic black
Total (All ages)	$11.24	$8.66	$11.65	$8.85
Failed to complete high school a/	8.11	7.13	8.57	7.16
Completed high school	11.87	10.14	12.13	9.38
High school diploma only	9.94	8.84	10.19	8.09
Completed some college b/	13.53	11.97	13.75	10.92
Total (Under age 30)	$8.34	$6.94	$8.65	$7.23
Failed to complete high school a/	6.46	6.24	6.63	5.82
Completed high school	8.80	7.75	9.03	7.53
High school diploma only	8.11	7.42	8.32	6.81
Completed some college b/	10.02	8.44	10.26	9.03
Total (Age 30 and older)	$11.96	$9.30	$12.37	$9.33
Failed to complete high school a/	8.61	7.51	9.14	7.42
Completed high school	12.60	10.94	12.84	10.00
High school diploma only	10.60	9.43	10.85	8.66
Completed some college b/	14.05	12.79	14.25	11.33

a/ Includes persons who did not start high school.
b/ Includes college graduates

Note: Table prepared by Congressional Research Service (CRS) using data from the March 1984 Current Population Survey. Includes only fathers with earnings. Fathers with negative and zero earnings are excluded.

E. Annual Earnings

Annual Earnings of Fathers. Annual earnings of Hispanic fathers, overall, tend to be about one-third smaller than those of non-Hispanic white fathers, but about the same as those of black non-Hispanic fathers. Hispanic fathers earned $15,379, on average, during 1983, compared to $23,653 for non-Hispanic white fathers, and $15,218 for non-Hispanic black fathers (table 5.7). However, Hispanic fathers 30 years of age and older earned substantially more during the year than black fathers in the same educational group. For example, Hispanic fathers age 30 and older who failed to complete high school on average earned 25 percent more during 1983 than black fathers, $12,436 compared to $9,398, but 19 percent less than comparable white fathers ($15,273). Among high school graduates with no post high school education, Hispanic fathers earned 18 percent more than black fathers, but 17 percent less than white fathers.

One reason why Hispanic fathers' earnings are so low, overall, is that half of the Hispanics have not completed high school. In all, as was shown in table 4.10 (chapter 4), 53.3 percent of the Hispanic children, compared with 27 percent of non-Hispanic black children and 14.3 percent of non-Hispanic white children, had fathers who had not completed high school (including those who did not even enter high school). Nearly half (49 percent) of all Hispanic fathers age 30 and older and 51 percent under the age of 30 had not completed high school, compared with 28 and 17 percent respectively, among non-Hispanic black fathers and 14 and 16 percent, respectively, among non-Hispanic white fathers.

TABLE 5.7. Mean Annual Earnings of Fathers in Married Couple Families, by Father's Race/Ethnicity, Education and Age: 1983

	Total	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic white	Non-Hispanic black
Total (All ages)	$22,349	$15,379	$23,653	$15,218
Failed to complete high school a/	13,130	11,692	14,378	9,250
Completed high school	24,367	18,978	25,218	17,284
High school diploma only	19,294	16,322	20,085	14,147
Completed some college b/	28,859	22,719	29,613	21,300
Total (Under age 30)	$15,681	$11,617	$16,663	$12,483
Failed to complete high a/ school	10,503	9,794	11,212	8,445
Completed high school	16,968	13,558	17,723	13,313
High school diploma only	15,357	12,826	16,048	12,126
Completed some college b/	19,853	15,099	20,649	15,976
TOTAL (Age 30 and older)	$24,039	$16,770	$25,349	$16,058
Failed to complete high school a/	13,889	12,436	15,273	9,398
Completed high school	26,187	20,866	26,988	18,695
High school diploma only	20,748	17,816	21,529	15,111
Completed some college b/	30,245	24,632	30,944	22,502

a/ Includes persons who did not complete high school.
b/ Include college graduates.

Note: Table prepared by Congressional Research Service using data from the March 1984 Current Population Survey. Includes all fathers. Negative earnings are treated as zero earnings.

Annual Earnings of Mothers. Hispanic mothers earned less than white or black mothers in 1983 (table 5.8). Among married mothers, Hispanic mothers' average earnings were $4,440 in 1983, 25 percent less than non-Hispanic white mothers ($5,939) and 45 percent less than non-Hispanic black mothers ($8,099). Among married mothers in the same educational group, non-Hispanic black mothers earned the most. This was a result of their working a greater number of hours during the year, not of the level of their hourly earnings. Hispanic mothers

earned the least, largely because of working fewer hours. Their fewer hours of work and lower earnings may reflect their likelihood to be somewhat younger, have more children, and be less educated, than non-Hispanic black or white mothers. In addition, Hispanic married mothers may work less and earn less than non-Hispanic black married mothers in part because Hispanic husbands on average earn more per year than black husbands.

TABLE 5.8. Mean Annual Earnings of Mothers, by Mother's Race/Ethnicity, Marital Status, and Education: 1983

	Total	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic white	Non-Hispanic black
Married (Total)	$6,036	$4,440	$5,939	$8,099
Failed to complete high school a/	2,898	2,548	2,946	3,412
Completed high school	6,669	6,248	6,404	9,287
High school diploma only	5,214	5,372	5,051	6,987
Completed some college b/	8,603	8,078	8,209	12,070
Single (Total)	$7,114	$4,237	$8,398	$5,578
Failed to complete high school a/	2,849	2,519	3,851	1,789
Completed high school	8,852	7,188	9,646	7,370
High school diploma only	7,431	5,572	8,311	5,937
Completed some college b/	11,443	10,708	11,971	10,230

a/ Includes persons who did not complete high school.
b/ Includes college graduates.

Note: Table prepared by Congressional Research using data from the March 1984 Current Population Survey. Negative earnings are treated as zero earnings.

Hispanic single mothers also earn less on average than their white and black unmarried counterparts. In 1983, single Hispanic mothers earned $4,237, on average, 24 percent less than non-Hispanic black single mothers ($5,578) and 50 percent less than non-Hispanic white single mothers ($8,398). Among single mothers, non-Hispanic whites earned the most in each educational group,

contrasting with the situation for married mothers. With the exception of Hispanic single mothers who did not finish high school, Hispanic mothers earned about the same sum yearly as non-Hispanic black mothers.

One reason why earnings of Hispanic single mothers are so low overall is that more than two-thirds of them have not completed high school. As was shown in table 4.10 (chapter 4), 67.1 percent of Hispanic children in female-headed families in 1983 had mothers who had not completed high school, compared with 37.7 percent of children of non-Hispanic single black mothers and 23.4 percent of children of non-Hispanic single white mothers (data include those who did not start high school).

F. Work and Poverty Rates

Married Couples. As seen earlier (table 5.2), Hispanic fathers in married-couple families worked more hours during the year than non-Hispanic black fathers, but fewer hours than non-Hispanic white fathers. However, Hispanic mothers in married-couple families tend to work fewer hours than their non-Hispanic white or black counterparts (table 5.3). How do the combined hours worked by parents relate to the poverty of their children?

In 1983, 71.3 percent of the fathers in married-couple families worked more than 2,000 hours (full-time, year-round work). Among Hispanics, the percentage of full-time working fathers was 60.5, 15 percent below the overall average; among non-Hispanic blacks, it was 60.2; among non-Hispanic whites it was 73.5, 3 percent above the overall average (table 5.9). The 1983 poverty rate among Hispanic children whose father worked full time all year was 14.9 percent, triple the rate of 5.1 percent among corresponding non-Hispanic white children and 45 percent above the rate of 10.3 percent among similar non-Hispanic black children. (See table 5.10)

Poverty rates of Hispanic children whose father worked full time ranged from 1.7 percent (in cases where the mother also worked more than 2,000 hours) to 24 percent, where the mother did not work at all. For non-Hispanic black children of full-time working fathers, the corresponding range of poverty rates was from 0.2 percent to 22.7 percent; for non-Hispanic white children, the range was from 2 percent to 7.8 percent.

As seen earlier, Hispanic fathers worked slightly more hours during 1983 on average, than non-Hispanic black fathers. Why, then, is the incidence of poverty among Hispanic children in married-couple families higher than that of black children? Part of the reason may be the fewer hours worked by mothers in Hispanic married-couple families; 47.4 percent of such Hispanic wives did not work during 1983, compared to 28.4 percent of non-Hispanic blacks and 34.2 percent of non-Hispanic whites.

TABLE 5.9. Percentage of Married-Couple Families With Children by Number of Hours Worked by Parents, 1983

	Total	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic white	Non-Hispanic black
Married-couple families:	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Father worked over 2000 hours and:	71.3	60.5	73.5	60.2
Mother worked over 2000 hours	17.3	13.1	16.9	23.3
Mother worked 1001-2000 hours	14.7	9.7	15.3	13.8
Mother worked 1-1000 hours	15.2	9.0	16.6	8.6
Mother did not work	24.0	28.7	24.7	14.5
Father worked 1001-2000 hours	16.0	21.6	15.4	17.6
Father worked 1-1000 hours	6.0	9.6	5.4	8.6
Father did not work	6.7	8.3	5.7	13.6
Mother did not work (all married-couple families)	34.8	47.4	34.2	28.4

Note: Table prepared by Congressional Research Service using data from the March 1984 Current Population Survey. Primary and secondary families only.

TABLE 5.10. Poverty Rates of Children in Married-Couple Families by Number of Hours Parents Worked, 1983

	Total	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic white	Non-Hispanic black
Married couple families:	12.7	26.5	9.9	21.7
Father worked over 2000 hours and:	6.3	14.9	5.1	10.3
Mother worked over 2000 hours	1.9	1.7	2.0	0.2
Mother worked 1001-2000 hours	4.1	5.5	3.7	7.7
Mother worked 1-1000 hours	5.5	10.2	4.8	14.0
Mother did not work	10.4	24.0	7.8	22.7
Father worked 1001-2000 hours	15.5	33.1	12.0	22.6
Father worked 1-1000 hours	43.0	56.3	38.4	54.3
Father did not work	44.2	56.4	38.4	47.3
Mother did not work (all married-couple families	21.7	38.2	16.1	45.6

Note: Table prepared by Congressional Research Service using data from the March 1984 Current Population Survey. For children in primary and secondary families only. This table and table 5.9 are to be read together. Table 5.9 shows what percentage of parents worked how many hours; this table shows the poverty rates of children in the corresponding category of parent workers. Thus, table 5.9 shows that 21.6 percent of Hispanic fathers worked 1001-2000 hours, (seventh line of table), and this table shows that one-third (33.1 percent) of their children were poor (also the seventh line).

Single Mothers. As seen earlier (table 5.3), Hispanic mothers raising children alone worked fewer hours overall in 1983 than single non-Hispanic mothers. Their lesser work is reflected in lower earnings and higher poverty rates for their children.

In 1983, 32.9 percent of all single mothers worked more than 2,000 hours (full-time, year-round work). Among Hispanic and non-Hispanic black single mothers the proportion who worked full time all year was below the overall average, at 21.1 and 27 percent, respectively. The fraction of non-Hispanic single white mothers who worked full time was above average, at 37.9 (table 5.11).

More than three-fourths of the non-Hispanic white single mothers and nearly 60 percent of non-Hispanic black single mothers worked at some time during the year. In contrast, 52.7 percent of Hispanic single mothers did not work at all in 1983.

The incidence of poverty among children of full-time working mothers varied sharply by race and ethnicity: among Hispanics, 17.1 children per 100 were poor; non-Hispanic blacks, 19.1; and non-Hispanic whites, 6.5 (table 5.12). These variations may reflect differences in access to other cash income, as well as differences in earnings. 34/

In those mother-child families where the mother did not work, poverty rates averaged above 90 percent.

34/ For example, Children in Poverty (p. 134) found that child support and alimony accounted for 12.5 percent of the 1982-83 income of families headed by divorced or separated mothers who were white, but for only 4.5 percent of the smaller income of corresponding families headed by black mothers.

TABLE 5.11. Percentage of Single Female-Headed Families With Children a/ by Number of Hours Worked by Mothers, 1983

	Total	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic white	Non-Hispanic black
Female-headed families:	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mother worked Over 2000 hours	32.9	21.1	37.9	27.0
Mother worked 1001-2000 hours	19.1	14.4	21.6	15.8
Mother worked 1-1000 hours	16.2	11.8	17.1	15.6
Mother did not work	31.9	52.7	23.4	41.5

NOTE: Table prepared by Congressional Research Service using data from the March 1984 Current Population Survey.

a/ For primary and secondary families with "own related" children only.

TABLE 5.12. Poverty Rates of Children in Single Female-Headed Families With Children a/ by Number of Hours Worked by Mothers, 1983

	Total	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic white	Non-Hispanic black
Female-headed families:	55.4	74.0	42.1	70.5
Mother worked Over 2000 hours	10.7	17.1	6.5	19.1
Mother worked 1001-2000 hours	36.1	47.1	29.8	47.8
Mother worked 1-1000 hours	75.4	84.1	66.9	89.9
Mother did not work	90.8	95.1	82.9	96.0

NOTE: Table prepared by Congressional Research Service using data from the March 1984 Current Population Survey.

a/ For "own related" children in primary and secondary families only.

Children of Full-Time Working Poor. In 1983, 2,458,000 children were poor despite year-round full-time work of at least one parent (table 5.13). These 2.5 million children of the full-time working poor represented more than one-fifth of those poor children who lived in families as "own related children" (and more than one-sixth of the total number of poor children). In all, almost

Table 5.13. Poor Children a/ in 1983 Who Had at Least One Parent Who Worked More than 2,000 Hours (own related children)

	Poor Children of Full-Time Workers					
	In all families b/		In female-headed families		In married-couple families	
	Number (thousands)	As percent of all poor children	Number (thousands)	As percent of poor children in group	Number (thousands)	As percent of poor children in group
Hispanic	386	21.1%	33	4.1%	353	34.7%
Non-Hispanic black	390	12.6	144	6.2	246	31.6
Non-Hispanic white	1,569	26.8	122	5.4	1,447	40.1
Total c/	2,458	21.8%	309	5.6%	2,149	37.3%

a/ "Own related" children in primary and secondary families only.

b/ All married-couple and female-headed families.

c/ Includes other non-Hispanics.

NOTE: Table prepared by the Congressional Research Service using data from the March 1984 Current Population Survey.

6 percent of own related poor children in female-headed families (309,000) and 37 percent of such poor children in married-couple families (2,149,000) had a parent (or parents) who worked more than 2,000 hours in 1983.

The share of poor children within each group with a full-time working parent was largest for non-Hispanic whites, smallest for non-Hispanic blacks and about average for Hispanics. More than one-fourth of the poor non-Hispanic white children, one-eighth of the poor non-Hispanic black children, and more than one-fifth of the poor Hispanic children were in families with at least one parent who worked full time all year. Almost two-thirds of the children of the full-time working poor were non-Hispanic whites, and the rest were evenly divided between non-Hispanic blacks and Hispanics.

To overcome the poverty of the children of the full-time working poor would require another earner, higher earnings for current worker(s) or cash supplements to existing full-time earnings. For some, noncash benefits such as food stamps and Medicaid relieve some of the pressure caused by too little money.

G. Hispanic Immigration and Children's Poverty

One important way in which Hispanics, as a group, differ from non-Hispanics is their relatively recent immigration. In 1979, roughly one out of three Hispanics was an "immigrant" or first generation member. 35/ Another third of

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35/ The term "immigrants" used throughout this section refers not to the legal term, but to persons who were born outside the U.S. to foreign-born parents, sometimes referred to as the "first generation." Included in this category are all first generation people, including undocumented aliens as well as persons born in Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory, who are U.S. citizens by birth, and like all citizens, are accorded free travel within the U.S. See Appendix A for a further discussion of parentage and its relation to ethnic origin.

the Hispanics belonged to the second generation, being native born but of foreign born parents. The final third, being of third and succeeding generations, were native born of native born parents, 36/ and many of those in the West preceded non-Hispanic settlers by many generations.

Recently-arrived Hispanics, like persons of other ethnic backgrounds, have come to the United States for a variety of reasons. Some have come seeking economic opportunity, or to be united with relatives who immigrated previously; others fled their homelands due to adverse political or economic circumstances. Because so many Hispanics are immigrants, or only a generation or two removed from the immigration of their forebears, factors relating to the immigration process have a bearing on the economic status of Hispanic families. This section discusses how characteristics of the Hispanic population in the U.S., such as age, education, and language skills, are related to the immigration process and the earnings of parents.

1. Age

The lower earnings of Hispanics overall, are in part due to their being younger than the non-Hispanic population. 37/ Persons who migrate for economic reasons often tend to be younger adults, having weaker ties to the labor market in their originating country than older adults and, as a result, having potentially more to gain from migrating. In part, the Hispanic population in the

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36/ U.S. Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. English Language Usage by the Hispanic Population in the United States. Typed report by Sharon Masanz and Tom Gabe, December 7, 1981. Washington, 1981.

37/ Hispanic parents tend to be younger than non-Hispanic parents. This fact does not contradict the finding that Hispanic children tend to have older parents (see chapter 4). This is because Hispanic families are larger, and the number of children living in these large families with older parents is disproportionately large. Nevertheless, when all parents are examined as a group, Hispanic parents tend to be younger.

U.S. is young because of this tendency; it is also young because the countries from which Hispanics come have young populations. For example, about 45 percent of Mexico's population is less than 15 years of age, almost double the 23 percent in the U.S. population. 38/ The most recent data show, for example, that 40 percent of all legal migrants from Mexico were between ages 20 and 29, and that another 33 percent were under 20 years of age. 39/ In comparison, only about 18 percent of the U.S. population was between the ages of 20 and 29, and 32 percent were under age 20. 40/ Others have found that both apprehended and unapprehended undocumented Mexican workers (discussed in greater detail below) also tend to be relatively young. 41/

2. Motivation

Immigrants may differ from the nonimmigrant population in the host country and the population of their homeland in a number of ways. Although difficult to prove, some have suggested that emigrants may be more highly motivated than their non-emigrant counterparts and perhaps more highly motivated than native born in the host country. 42/ One might expect that more highly motivated

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38/ World Almanac, p. 544 and U.S. Bureau of the Census Statistical Abstract, p. 33.

39/ U.S. Department of Justice. Immigration and Naturalization Service. 1983 Statistical Yearbook of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. p. 60.

40/ U.S. Bureau of the Census. Statistical Abstract of the United States, p. 33.

41/ Houstoun, Marion F. Aliens in Irregular Status in the United States: A Review of Their Numbers, Characteristics, and Role in the U.S. Labor Market. International Migration. v. 21, no. 3, 1983: 372-414.

42/ See for example: Carliner, Geoffrey. Wages, Earnings and Hours of First, Second, and Third Generation American Males. Economic Inquiry, vol. 18, no. 1 (1980). pp. 87-102, and Barry Chiswick. The Effect of Americanization on the Earnings of Foreign-born Men. Journal of Political Economy. Vol. 86, no. 5 (1978). pp. 897-921. and Barry Chiswick. Sons of Immigrants: Are They at an Earnings Disadvantage? American Economic Review. Vol. 67, no. 1 (1977). pp. 376-380.

persons would have higher earnings than less motivated persons. However, immigrants may be affected by a variety of other factors that may offset gains that might be attributable to higher motivation.

3. Language Skills

English language facility is clearly related to the process of immigration and assimilation. First-generation people are much less likely to speak and write English than are second and third and succeeding generations. For example, in 1979, 95 percent of first-generation Hispanics over the age of 5 spoke some language other than English (presumably Spanish) in the home, and of these, 54 percent were reported to speak English with difficulty or not at all. In comparison, 74 percent of second-generation Hispanics spoke Spanish in the home, and 46 percent of third and succeeding generation Hispanics, but among these, only 16 percent and 5 percent, respectively, were reported to have difficulty in speaking English. 43/

Language skills may be an important factor in accounting for the lower earnings of Hispanics relative to non-Hispanics. Spoken and written English language skills are needed for many jobs. "We believe that all Americans must become proficient in the English language in order to work and live in the modern world," said the Committee for Economic Development in 1985. 44/ The National Commission for Employment Policy (NCEP), considers "a lack of English (as) the major source of the labor market difficulties of all subgroups

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43/ Sharon Masanz and Tom Gabe, op. cit.

44/ Committee for Economic Development. Investing in our children: business and public schools. p. 21.

(of Hispanics)." 45/ Some have attributed almost all of the difference between Hispanics' and non-Hispanics' wages to differences in language skills. 46/

4. Education

Earlier we saw that the parents of most Hispanic children have less than a high school education. (Table 4.10.) The NCEP cites low level of education among Hispanics as the second major reason for their poor labor market experience. 47/

The low levels of education among many Hispanics immigrants may be due to the low educational levels in their countries of origin. For example, in 1982, only 54 percent of the secondary-school-age population of Mexico was enrolled in secondary school, compared to 96 percent of the U.S. population. 48/ Educational differences between the U.S. population and Puerto Rican island population are also apparent. Overall, only 39.6 percent of Puerto Ricans 25 years old and over, living on the island, have completed high school, compared to 66.5 percent of the U.S. population. 49/

Second- and succeeding generation Hispanics, born in the United States, also may not be as likely to have completed high school as non-Hispanics.

45/ National Commission for Employment Policy. Hispanics and Jobs: Barriers to Progress. Report No. 14, September 1982, p. 2.

46/ McManus, Walter, William Gould, and Finis Welch. Earnings of Hispanic Men: The Role of English Language Proficiency. Undated Mimeo.

47/ NCEP., op. cit., p. 2.

48/ U.S. Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. Selected Educational Expenditure and Participation Statistics for the United States and certain Foreign Nations, by Wayne Riddle. Washington, 1985. p. 4.

49/ U.S. Bureau of the Census. General Social and Economic Characteristics: Puerto Rico. February 1984, PC80-1-C53A. p 22.

Family background is often thought to affect an individual's level of educational attainment; parents' education and income are thought to be among the more important characteristics of family background. 50/ Second-generation Hispanics of foreign-born parents, who often received little education in their home country, may not attain the same levels of education as non-Hispanics, or Hispanics in the third- and succeeding generations, despite the often-held belief that children of immigrants may be more highly motivated, given the presumed higher motivation of their parents in seeking opportunities abroad. Second generation Hispanics, however, are likely to attain higher levels of education than their parents. 51/

Poor English language facility, more likely among earlier than later generations, may also put some Hispanics at a disadvantage when it comes to attaining education. In 1978, about one-fourth of Hispanics in primary and secondary school "spoke little or no English". Some suggest that, among other factors, their poor facility with English impedes promotion of some Hispanic pupils to the next grade; having to repeat a grade, in turn, often leads to higher high school drop out rates. In 1981, 36 percent of Hispanics between the ages of 18 and 19 were high school dropouts (i.e., not enrolled in school and without a high school diploma), compared to 19 percent of blacks and 16 percent of whites. 52/

50/ For a discussion and review of some of the literature relating to Hispanic educational attainment, see: Fligstein, Neil and Roberto M. Fernandez. Educational Transitions of Whites and Mexican-Americans. Hispanics in the U.S. Economy. Borjas, George J., and Marta Tienda (ed). Academic Press, Inc. Orlando Florida. 1985.

51/ Davis, et al., p. 29.

52/ Ibid.

5. Legal Status

The legal status of immigrants also may affect their economic status. Some suggest that undocumented aliens, who are subject to deportation, are likely to be passive and to receive fewer protections than other workers in the economy. One survey found that while most undocumented workers work in relatively low-skill, low-wage jobs, a majority receive wages in excess of the legal minimum; however, a sizable minority (less than one-fourth) receive wages below the legal minimum. 53/ Another survey (Immigration and Naturalization Service) found that in 1980 close to 40 percent of apprehended illegal aliens had hourly wages below the legal minimum; by 1982, the percentage had dropped to around 10 percent. 54/ Some of the drop in the share receiving subminimum wages was attributed to the lack of an increase in the minimum wage from 1980 to 1982, a period when prices rose rapidly and general wages rose less so. By most accounts, undocumented workers earn less than comparable U.S. workers.

There are no reliable estimates of the size of the illegal or undocumented alien population, or the portion made up by Hispanics, nor do we know to what degree they show up in surveys such as the Current Population Survey and thereby affect statistics among Hispanics as a group. Estimates of the total undocumented alien population of all backgrounds have ranged from between 2 and 12 million. While the Census Bureau has not released official estimates of the undocumented alien population, Census Bureau demographers cautiously speculated in 1980: "The total number of illegal residents in the United States . . . is almost certainly below 6.0 million, and may be substantially less, possibly

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53/ Houstoun, Marion F., op.cit., p. 389.

54/ Ibid., p. 389-390.

3.5 to 5.0 million. The Mexican component of the illegally resident population is almost certainly less that 3.0 million, and may be substantially less, possibly only 1.5 to 2.5 million. 55/ A more recent (1983) Census Bureau study estimates that 2 million undocumented aliens were included in the 1980 Census count, and that of these, approximately 1.3 million, or about two-thirds, were from Latin America, including an estimated 931,000 Mexicans. 56/ This Census Bureau estimate of 1.3 million Hispanic undocumented aliens equals about 10 percent of the total Hispanic population counted in the 1980 Census. Because of the major efforts taken by the Census Bureau to count the undocumented population, experts doubt that the number missed could be greater than the number counted. 57/

55/ Houstoun, op. cit., p. 384. Citing: Siegel, Jacob S., Jeffrey S. Passel, and J. Gregory Robinson. Preliminary Review of Existing Studies of the Number of Illegal Residents in the United States. January 30, 1980.

56/ Davis, Cary, Carl Haub and JoAnne Willette, op. cit., p. 27. Citing: Robert Warren and Jeffrey Passel, Estimates of Illegal Aliens from Mexico Counted in the 1980 United States Census, paper presented as the Population Association of America, Pittsburgh, April 1983.

57/ Ibid., p. 27.

CHAPTER 6. GOVERNMENT TRANSFER PAYMENTS FOR HISPANIC CHILDREN

To what extent do governmental cash payments help Hispanic children whose families' market income is below the poverty threshold?

The Government makes two basic kinds of cash payments that directly affect the incidence and severity of measured poverty among families with children: social insurance benefits (primarily social security and unemployment insurance) and welfare aid (primarily Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)). 58/

Social insurance programs provide work-related benefits to families (and survivors) of retired, disabled, or dead workers with a sufficient history of earnings. No income test applies to them. To receive social insurance benefits, a child must have a parent who earned coverage through work before becoming unemployed or disabled or before retiring or dying.

To receive cash aid from AFDC, a needy child 59/ must be in a one-parent family, unless the second parent is disabled, unemployed or "underemployed" (that is, unless he works fewer than 100 hours a month). In the latter case the jobless parent must be the principal earner and must have worked a specified

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58/ Since 1975, the Federal Government also has made direct cash payments through the income tax system to some working parents with relatively low earnings and dependent children. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) in 1984 provided $1.7 billion to some 6.1 million families whose adjusted gross income (and earnings) were below $10,000 in 1983. Of the total credit, $1.2 billion represented Treasury payments in excess of tax liability and $0.5 billion offset tax liability. It is not known to what extent the direct Treasury "refund" checks are reported in the March Current Population Surveys. Further, official poverty data take account only of pre-tax income.

59/ States define "need" in AFDC, and none links its need standards or maximum benefits to the poverty threshold. See Children in Poverty, p. 189 ff.

minimum time in the past. Further, the family must live in one of the 25 jurisdictions that offer AFDC to Unemployed Parents (AFDC-UP). 60/

This chapter examines the extent to which poor Hispanic children (and their families) were aided in each year from 1975-1983 by social insurance and cash welfare payments. It presents aggregate spending and per capita spending in constant value dollars and calculates the impact upon Hispanic child poverty rates of social insurance benefits and cash welfare payments in turn. The chapter also presents some data on the proportion of beneficiaries of AFDC, food stamps, and subsidized housing who are Hispanic.

A. Size of Transfers

Social Insurance. In constant 1983 dollars, aggregate social insurance benefits to poor Hispanic children (primarily social security and unemployment insurance benefits) increased from $382 million in 1975 to $389 million in 1983 (table 6.1). (Excluded from the table are payments to parents, and to children and parents in families whose annual market income exceeded poverty thresholds.) The rise in aggregate benefits from 1975-1983 was two percent. But over the period the number of pre-transfer poor Hispanic children increased by 522,000, or by 27 percent. Available per capita benefits fell from $199 in 1975 to $159 in 1983, a drop of 20 percent. During the same years, per capita social

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60/ In 1979, slightly more than half the Hispanic poor children lived in four States with AFDC-UP (California, New York, New Jersey, and Illinois); but Texas, the State with the second largest population of Hispanic poor children, did not offer the program. None of these five States offered dependents' allowances in unemployment insurance.

insurance benefits available for the total population of children poor without them declined at about the same rate, from $326 to $258, 61/ a drop of 21 percent.

TABLE 6.1. Social Insurance Payments for Hispanic Children in Market Income Poverty, 1975-1983

	Aggregate social insurance benefits to children (millions of 1983 dollars)	Number of children poor before transfers (thousands)	Social insurance benefits available per child (1983 dollars)
1983	$389	2,446	$159
1982	435	2,484	175
1981	378	2,187	173
1980	347	1,980	175
1979	313	1,728	181
1978	281	1,590	177
1977	314	1,685	186
1976	352	1,720	205
1975	382	1,924	199
Percentage change 1975-1983	+2%	+27%	-20%

Source: Estimates derived from the March Current Population Survey, 1976-1984. Column 1 represents children's pro rata share of reported family benefits.

Cash Welfare Benefits. In constant 1983 dollars, aggregate cash welfare benefits to pre-welfare poor Hispanic children from Federal, State, and local funds declined from $1.114 billion in 1975 to $1.068 billion in 1983. (See table 6.2). (Excluded from the table are the parents' share of such benefits

61/ Data from Children in Poverty. Table 6.1, p. 180.

and sums paid to children and parents in families whose annual cash income minus welfare benefits exceeded the poverty threshold.)

The drop in aggregate welfare cash payments amounted to four percent. But the number of Hispanic children poor before welfare climbed 26 percent, from 1.8 million in 1975 to 2.3 million in 1983. Per capita available amounts fell from $623 in 1975 to $472, a drop of 24 percent.

In the same years, per capita cash welfare benefits available for the total population of children poor without them declined at a lesser rate, from $535 in 1975 to $452 in 1983, 62/ a drop of 16 percent. Throughout these years available per capita cash welfare benefits per Hispanic child in pre-welfare poverty exceeded those of total children, but the difference narrowed because of the sharper drop in benefits available per Hispanic child.

62/ Data from Children in Poverty. Table 6.2, p. 181.

TABLE 6.2. Cash Welfare Benefits for Hispanic Children Poor Before Welfare, 1975-1983

Year	Aggregate cash welfare benefits to children (millions of 1983 dollars)	Number of children poor before welfare (thousands)	Cash welfare benefits available per child (1983 dollars)
1983	$1,068	2,261	$472
1982	1,064	2,291	464
1981	1,040	2,039	510
1980	1,040	1,853	561
1979	923	1,619	570
1978	1,006	1,484	678
1977	1,131	1,553	728
1976	1,139	1,575	723
1975	1,114	1,789	623
Percentage change 1975-1983	-4%	+26%	-24%

Source: Estimates derived from the March Current Population Survey, 1975-1984. Column 1 represents children's pro rata share of reported family benefits.

B. Impact of Transfers on Poverty Rates

From 1975 to 1983 the proportion of all Hispanic children in families whose market income was below their poverty threshold climbed 10.7 percent. The share of children who were poor after social insurance rose slightly less, 9.9 percent, indicating that social insurance payments had a somewhat larger impact in 1983 than in 1975 on incidence of poverty. The share of Hispanic children poor after all transfers however, increased by 14.7 percent. The disproportionate

rise in final money income poverty rates reflects a much smaller impact of cash welfare transfers upon poverty rates in 1983 than in 1975. Table 6.3 presents the market income, pre-welfare, and post-transfer money income poverty rates for Hispanic children from 1975 to 1983. It shows that cash welfare transfers decreased the poverty rate 63/ by 8.5 percent in 1975 (from a pre-welfare rate of 36.4 to a post-transfer rate of 33.3) but only by four percent in 1983 (from a pre-welfare rate of 40 to a post-transfer rate of 38.2).

63/ Pre- and post-transfer measurements of the incidence of poverty somewhat overstate the reduction in poverty rates that can be attributed to the transfer payment. If there had been no transfer payment, the pre-transfer poverty rate itself would have been somewhat smaller because of greater work effort by some persons. See Children in Poverty, p. 157-158, for a discussion of this issue.

TABLE 6.3. Poverty Rates for all Hispanic Children Under 18 by Source of Income, 1975-1983

Year	Market income poverty rate a/	Pre-welfare poverty rate b/	Post-transfer poverty rate c/ (official measure)
1983	43.3	40.0	38.2
1982	44.9	41.4	39.4
1981	40.7	38.0	35.8
1980	37.5	35.1	33.3
1979	31.6	29.6	27.7
1978	31.7	29.6	27.6
1977	33.5	30.9	28.3
1976	36.1	33.0	30.2
1975	39.1	36.4	33.3
Percentage change 1975-1983	+10.7%	+9.9%	+14.7%

a/ Includes income from sources such as earnings, dividends, interest, private and public pensions, alimony and child support.

b/ In addition to the income in column 1, includes benefits from social security, railroad retirement, unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, and veterans' benefits.

c/ In addition to the income in column 2, includes cash welfare benefits.

The decline from 1975-1983 in the impact of governmental cash transfers on poverty rates was sharper for non-Hispanic children, both black and white, than for Hispanics. Post-transfer poverty rates of non-Hispanics fell 29.1 percent (whites) and 18.6 percent (blacks) below pre-transfer poverty levels in 1975. In 1983, however, transfers cut the pre-transfer poverty rates of non-Hispanic children by only 17.7 percent (whites) and 8.6 percent (blacks). For market

income, pre-welfare, and post-transfer poverty rates of all non-Hispanic black and non-Hispanic white children, 1975-1983, see appendix table B.3.

If combined cash transfers of social insurance and welfare had achieved the same relative poverty reduction in 1983 as in 1975, there would have been about 1.5 million fewer poor children in 1983: 76,000 fewer poor Hispanic children, 930,000 fewer non-Hispanic white children, and 471,000 fewer poor non-Hispanic black children. These figures represent reductions from actual poverty numbers of 3.5 percent, 14 percent, and 11 percent, respectively.

C. Impact of Transfers on Poverty Income Deficit

In 1975 market income available to Hispanic children fell short of their poverty thresholds by $2.838 billion dollars (1983 dollars). In 1983 their market income poverty deficit climbed to $3.791 billion dollars. Thus, the pre-transfer gap widened by $953 million, more than one-third.

Social insurance and cash welfare benefits, which had reduced the 1975 income gap of poor Hispanic children by $1.496 billion (1983 dollars), contributed only $1.457 billion--$39 million less--to reducing the larger 1983 deficit. As a result, the post-transfer deficit rose $992 million above its 1975 level, to $2.334 billion.

In 1983 Hispanic children accounted from 15.6 percent of the total population of poor children, but for only 14.7 percent of their total poverty income deficit. Similarly, non-Hispanic white children accounted for 48.6 percent of all poor children, but for only 47.7 percent of their aggregate deficit. In contrast, non-Hispanic blacks, who represented 31.3 percent of the poor children, accounted for 33.5 percent of children's poverty gap. Their average degree of poverty was more severe than that of Hispanics or non-Hispanic whites. Other non-Hispanics, who represented 4.5 percent of the poor children, accounted

for the remaining 4.1 percent of the aggregate deficit. For aggregate poverty income deficits of Hispanic and non-Hispanic children based on market income alone, pre-welfare income, and total cash income, 1975-1983, see appendix table B.4.

D. Hispanic Children and Some Major Welfare Programs

Aid to Families with Dependent Children. Surveys of AFDC families generally have found from 12 to 14 percent of the mothers (or other payees) to be of Spanish origin (1973-1979). (See table 6.4)

TABLE 6.4. AFDC Families by Spanish Origin or Descent of Payee

		Percent of total families				
	Total families (thousand)	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Other Spanish	Total of Spanish origin a/
January 1973	2,990	5.4	6.8	0.1	1.3	13.4
May 1975	3,420	5.3	6.0	0.2	1.1	12.2
March 1977	3,523	5.1	5.8	0.1	1.5	12.2
March 1979	3,428	5.7	6.2	0.4	1.6	13.6

a/ Totals differ from sum of components because of rounding.

Source: Studies of recipient characteristics by the Department of Health and Human Services.

In March 1983, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) estimated that Hispanics accounted for 11.7 percent of the AFDC caseload, but this figure was based on the quality control sample rather than a survey of recipients and so does not correspond exactly to others in the data series.

Food Stamps. A 1982 survey by the Agriculture Department of food stamp recipients found that 13 percent of the children enrolled in the food stamp program (and 12.8 percent of recipient households with children) were Hispanics. The survey based the ethnicity of all members of the household on that of the head.

Subsidized Housing. Data from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) show that Hispanics accounted for 8.2 percent of the housing units subsidized by four major programs that were rented to families with children in 1974. By 1981 this percentage had climbed to 10.4. The programs were public housing, section 8, section 236 interest reduction payments, and rent supplements. Omitted were rural housing programs.

During this time the poverty status of the Hispanic families in subsidized housing grew slightly worse. In 1974, about 82 percent of the families were classified as "very low income," with annual incomes below 50 percent of the area median, adjusted for family size. In 1981, this proportion had risen to 85 percent; moreover, half of the Hispanic families in subsidized housing in 1981 had incomes below 30 percent of the area median.

Share of Major Welfare Caseloads. From 1975-1983 Hispanic children generally accounted for about 15 to 16 percent of all children whose total cash income fell short of poverty thresholds. Hispanic families consistently accounted for smaller shares of major welfare caseloads (AFDC, food stamps, subsidized housing) than poor Hispanic children's share of the total population of poor children. The disproportion may reflect larger average sizes of Hispanic

families and their less severe poverty (smaller per capita income gaps), compared to those of non-Hispanic black and white families with children. 64/

E. Public Benefits to Hispanic Households

The initial report of the Census Bureau's Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) 65/ said that 19.2 percent of the 4,182,000 households headed by a person of Spanish origin received cash benefits from means-tested programs (cash welfare) 66/ in the July to September quarter of 1983. SIPP also reported that 33.2 percent of these households received noncash benefits from means-tested programs 67/ and that 4.5 percent received unemployment compensation during the quarter. Corresponding percentages for the 9,246,000 households headed by blacks were 24.5 (cash welfare), 40 (noncash welfare), and 3.9 (unemployment compensation). For the 71,858,000 households headed by whites the percentages were 6.4, 11.6, and 3.4, respectively. The white and black householders included persons of Spanish origin.

SIPP data indicate that the mean monthly cash income of households headed by Hispanics was $1,605 during the quarter, 14 percent above that of households

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64/ It may also reflect the presence of illegal Hispanic aliens, who are ineligible for cash welfare, but data are lacking on this issue.

65/ U.S. Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. Economic Characteristics of Households in the United States. Third Quarter 1983. Current Population Reports. Series P-80. No. 1.

66/ These benefits were SSI (Federal and State supplementary programs) Veterans pensions, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, General Assistance, Indian, Cuban or Refugee Assistance, and other welfare.

67/ These benefits were food stamps, Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), low-income home energy assistance, Medicaid, free or reduced-price school lunches, free or reduced-price school breakfasts, and public or subsidized rental housing. SIPP reported that food stamps went to: 19.8 percent of the households headed by Hispanics, 24.4 percent of the households headed by blacks and 5.3 percent of the households headed by whites.

headed by blacks, but 29 percent below that of households headed by whites. Data were not reported for households with non-Hispanic black or white heads.

APPENDIX A: PROBLEMS IN DEFINING ETHNIC ORIGIN

Ethnicity is a concept for which there is no commonly agreed upon definition. One suggested definition is ". . . social diversity that is not related to age, social class, or sex. Hence it includes diversity that arises because of race, religion, nationality, language, and even geography." 68/ Ethnicity also has been defined as ". . . any of the basic divisions or groups of mankind, as distinguished by customs, characteristics, language, etc." 69/

Difficulties arise when attempting to identify members of ethnic groups in a meaningful way. The Census Bureau has conducted extensive research on the subject, particularly as it relates to identifying the Hispanic population. 70/ Several methods have been used, but each has its drawbacks.

68/ From inaugural editorial of Ethnicity (1974), cited in: Thernstrom, Stephan, ed. Harvard Encylcopedia of American Ethnic Groups. Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University Press, 1980. p. 954.

69/ From Andrew Greely cited in ibid., p. 954.

70/ See for example: U.S. Bureau of the Census. Consistency of Reporting of Ethnic Origin in the Current Population Survey. Technical Paper No. 31. Washington, U.S. Govt. Print. Off., 1974. U.S. Bureau of the Census. Comparison of Persons of Spanish Surname and Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States. Technical Paper No. 38. Washington, U.S. Govt. Print. Off., 1975. Siegel, Jacob S. and Jeffrey S. Passel. Coverage of the Hispanic Population of the United States in the 1970 Census. Current Population Reports, Special Studies, Series P-23, No. 82, 1979.

Country of Birth or Parentage

One's country of birth, or that of his parent(s) or other ancestors most directly identifies his ethnic origin. However, rarely is it possible to determine, beyond a generation or so, when and from what countries an individual's ancestors came to the United States. It is often difficult to identify the ethnic origin of persons beyond the first generation (foreign born of foreign born parents) and second generation (native born of foreign born persons).

Spanish Surname

The Census Bureau has attempted to identify people of Spanish origin through the use of Spanish surnames. 71/ However, certain problems arise. For example, many Spanish surnames are shared by persons of Italian or Portuguese origin. Also, after marriage, only names from the father's side are typically retained. After a generation or two it may become increasingly hard to establish a person's ethnic origin on the basis of his surname.

Mother Tongue and Current Language Spoken at Home

The Census Bureau has also attempted to identify the Spanish-language population, to gain some insight into immigration of Hispanics, compared to other groups. Thus, in 1960 and 1970 it asked respondents to give their "mother tongue," the language spoken in the home when they were children. In 1980 the Census Bureau dropped the mother tongue question and instead asked about the current language spoken at home. Although language is an important aspect of

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71/ U.S. Bureau of the Census. Technical Paper No. 38. Comparison of Persons of Spanish Surname and Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States, 1975.

ethnicity, it is inadequate to identify the Hispanic population. Different groups who consider themselves to be Hispanic vary widely in their retention of the Spanish language and their assimilation of English. 72/

Ethnic Origin

The Census Bureau has attempted to identify the Hispanic population by simply asking respondents what they consider to be their ethnic origin, descent or ancestry. Ethnic identification may be related to a host of factors, including recency of immigration, and the extent to which cultural practices, religion, or language associated with an ethnic group are maintained. Geographic proximity to others of shared ethnic background may also affect the degree to which persons maintain cultural practices and identify (or do not wish to identify with a particular ethnic group. 73/

Inconsistencies in Estimates of the Hispanic Population by Parentage, Spanish Surname, Native Tongue, and Ethnic Origin

Many data limitations and inconsistencies become evident when different aspects of Hispanic ethnicity are examined relative to one another. For example, the Census Bureau found that in 1971 only 46 percent of the Spanish surname

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72/ U.S. Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. English Language Usage by the Hispanic Population in the United States. Typed Report by Sharon Masanz and Tom Gabe, December 7, 1981. Washington, 1981.

73/ It is perhaps related to this that the U.S. Census Bureau found severe misreporting of persons of Mexican origin in the 1980 Census, in areas where the Spanish origin population was generally sparse. U.S. Bureau of the Census. Detailed Occupation and Years of School Completed by Age, for the Civilian Labor Force by Sex, Race, and Spanish Origin: 1980. Supplementary Report. PC80-S1-8.

population in the United States considered themselves to be of Spanish origin, and that only 61 percent were of the persons who considered themselves to be of Spanish origin had a Spanish surname. In five southwestern States (Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas), where the Hispanic population is mostly Mexican, only 81 percent of Spanish surname persons were of Spanish origin, and 74 percent of Spanish origin persons had Spanish surnames.

There is some uncertainty as to how the same persons respond to self-identifying origin questions from one time to another. Responses are sensitive to the question format, including the order in which different ethnic groups are listed. Open-ended questions, allowing a person to state his or her own ancestry, including mixed ancestry, yield different answers than a closed-ended forced response question, when asked of the same person at the same time. 74/ Census Bureau research on a closed-ended ethnic origin question showed that only two thirds of respondents gave the same answer in reporting their ancestry from one year to the next. 75/ However, among all groups, Hispanics were among the most consistent in reporting their ethnic identity; overall, 78.9 percent of Hispanics reported the same ethnic origin in both years studied.

The shares of Hispanic subgroups who gave the same answer both years were Puerto Ricans, 96.5 percent; Mexicans, 83.3 percent, Central or South Americans, 47.3 percent; other Spanish, 32 percent. Among those who reported being Central or South American, or other Spanish, in only one of the two years, most reported being a member of another Spanish origin group in the other year.

After several generations, ethnic origins become blurred. The greater consistency in response seen above among those who identify themselves as

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74/ Masanz and Gabe, op. cit.

75/ U.S. Bureau of the Census. Consistency of Reporting of Ethnic Origin in the Current Population Survey. Technical Paper No. 31. February 1974.

Hispanic, may in part be due to the relatively recent immigration of many of them. Some evidence of the relationship between ethnic origin and parentage is available from the 1970 Census Content Reinterview Survey, which asked the question: "Where did your father's (or mother's) ancestors come from?" Only three-quarters of the persons reporting ancestors from Hispanic countries identified themselves as being of Hispanic origin on the Census. People with Spanish surnames, or who were foreign born, or who lived in the Southwest, were more consistent in their response to the Spanish origin question than were others. Among those who were born in Hispanic countries (first generation), 99 percent reported being of Spanish origin on the Census. However, only 4 out of 5 persons who were native born but of foreign parentage (second generation) identified themselves as of Hispanic origin, and only about three quarters of all third generation persons did so. Among fourth generation persons with Hispanic ancestors, less than half reported being Hispanic, and only about one out of twenty who were more than four generations removed did so. 76/ Although nearly all persons (97 percent) who reported having Spanish ancestors on both sides of the family identified themselves as Hispanic, only one in five with a Spanish ancestor(s) on just one side of the family did so.

Definition of Ethnicity Presented in this Report--Ethnic Origin

The classification of Hispanics on the March 1984 Current Population Survey (CPS), which is used throughout this report, is based on self-identified ethnic origin. The respondent is asked to identify the origin or descent of each member of the household from among the following possibilities:

76/ Siegel, Jacob S. and Jeffry S. Passel. Coverage of the Hispanic population in the United States in the 1970 Census. Current Population Reports. Special Studies. P-23, No. 82., pp. 10-11.

German	Mexican American
Italian	Chicano
Irish	Mexican
French	Puerto Rican
Polish	Cuban
Russian	Central or South American
English	Other Spanish
Scottish	Afro-American (Black, Negro)
Welsh	Another Group not listed
	Don't know

The Census Bureau codes Hispanics as: Mexican American, Chicano, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish. Household heads are asked to identify the race of each household member, as a separate question. As a result, Hispanics may be of any race.

Unfortunately, data on the March 1984 CPS do not permit a comparison of Hispanics to non-Hispanics on many of the the more relevant dimensions of ethnicity--when and from what country the individual or his/her ancestors first came to the United States or facility with spoken and written English.

See appendix C for the Census Bureau's revised weighting procedures for persons of Spanish origin and appendix D for a comparison of original and revised 1983 child poverty data.

APPENDIX B

Additional Data

Table B.1. Weighted Average Poverty Thresholds For Families a/ of Specified Size, 1975-1984

Calendar Year	Families of three or more persons				
	3 persons	4 persons	5 persons	6 persons	7 persons b/ or more
1975	$4,293	$5,550	$6,499	$7,316	$9,022
1976	4,540	5,815	6,876	7,760	9,588
1977	4,833	6,191	7,320	8,261	10,216
1978	5,201	6,662	7,880	8,891	11,002
1979	5,784	7,412	8,775	9,914	12,280
1980	6,565	8,414	9,966	11,269	12,761
1981	7,250	9,287	11,007	12,449	14,110
1982	7,693	9,862	11,684	13,207	15,036
1983	7,938	10,178	12,049	13,630	15,500
1984 (est.)	8,280	10,610	12,560	14,210	16,160

a/ Thresholds are for nonfarm families until 1981.

b/ For years beginning with 1980, thresholds are for 7 persons, not for 7 persons or more.

TABLE B.2. Population Changes 1975-1982, All Children Under 18
(Number in thousands)

	Total Children		Hispanic Children		All Hispanics as percent of all children	Hispanic poor as percent of all poor children
	Total number	Number poor	Total number	Number poor		
1975	65,042	11,087	4,920	1,639	7.6	14.8
1976	63,994	10,254	4,770	1,442	7.5	14.1
1977	63,100	10,211	5,027	1,423	8.0	13.9
1978	62,590	10,210	5,012	1,383	8.0	13.5
1979	61,692	10,110	5,462	1,512	8.9	15.0
1980	62,914	11,549	5,277	1,756	8.4	15.2
1981	62,449	12,505	5,369	1,925	8.6	15.4
1982	62,345	13,647	5,527	2,180	8.9	16.0
1983	62,140	13,807	5,650	2,160	9.1	15.6

Table prepared by CRS from March Current Population Surveys, 1976-1984

TABLE B.3. Poverty Rates for All Children: 1975-1983

	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Market income:									
Hispanic	39.1	35.1	33.5	31.7	31.6	37.5	40.7	44.9	43.3
White non-Hispanic	15.1	13.2	13.4	12.9	13.0	15.0	16.0	17.6	18.1
Black non-Hispanic	51.1	48.5	50.0	49.4	48.6	48.2	51.7	53.1	51.0
Total	22.2	20.3	20.5	20.0	20.2	22.0	23.8	25.6	25.8
Pre-welfare:									
Hispanic	36.4	33.0	30.9	29.6	29.6	35.1	38.0	41.4	40.0
White non-Hispanic	11.8	10.7	10.9	10.9	11.0	12.7	13.7	15.0	15.3
Black non-Hispanic	46.9	44.9	46.5	46.2	45.5	45.2	48.3	50.3	48.4
Total	18.9	17.5	17.9	17.8	18.0	19.7	21.3	22.9	23.0
Total cash income:									
Hispanic	33.3	30.2	28.3	27.6	27.7	33.3	35.8	39.4	38.2
White non-Hispanic	10.7	9.8	9.9	10.0	10.0	11.8	12.9	14.4	14.9
Black non-Hispanic	41.6	40.6	41.8	42.1	41.0	42.3	45.1	47.6	49.6
Total	17.0	16.0	16.2	16.3	16.4	18.4	20.0	21.9	22.2

TABLE B.4. Aggregate Poverty Income Deficits for All Hispanic and Non-Hispanic Children: 1975-1983
(Millions of constant 1983 dollars)

r	Hispanic			Non-Hispanic white			Non-Hispanic black		
	Market income deficit	Pre-welfare deficit	Cash income deficit	Market income deficit	Pre-welfare deficit	Cash income deficit	Market income deficit	Pre-welfare deficit	Cash income deficit
3	$3,791	$3,402	$2,334	$12,606	$10,041	$7,569	$8,867	$7,804	$5,321
2	3,752	3,317	2,253	12,378	10,038	7,622	8,759	7,718	5,218
.	3,314	2,936	1,896	11,090	8,799	6,614	8,332	7,303	4,719
)	3,072	2,725	1,685	10,706	8,456	6,141	7,689	6,685	4,173
	2,624	2,311	1,388	9,037	7,216	5,109	7,496	6,524	3,887
	2,550	2,269	1,263	10,239	8,152	5,832	7,964	7,046	4,372
	2,589	2,275	1,144	10,131	7,686	5,083	7,776	6,764	3,711
	2,681	2,329	1,190	9,736	7,267	4,881	7,536	6,442	3,439
	2,838	2,456	1,342	11,047	8,006	5,463	7,832	6,612	3,784

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APPENDIX C: REVISED WEIGHTING PROCEDURES OF THE CENSUS BUREAU FOR PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN 77/

The estimates in this [Census Bureau] report for 1984 and 1983 . . . are based on revised survey weighting procedures for persons of Spanish origin. In previous years the estimation procedures used in this survey involved the inflation of weighted sample results to independent estimates of the noninstitutional population by age, sex, and race. There was, therefore, no specific control of the survey estimates for the Spanish population. During the last several years, the Bureau of the Census has developed independent population controls for the Spanish population by sex and detailed age groups and revised weighting procedures to incorporate these new controls. It should be noted that the independent population estimates include some, but not all, illegal immigrants.

The data in tables C and D illustrate the effect of introducing the new weighting methods by contrasting 1983 estimates based on the "original" and revised procedures. Overall, the revised procedures increased the Spanish population estimates from the survey by approximately 1.6 million. Since the original weighting procedures yielded underestimates of the number of Spanish and since Spanish have lower incomes, on average, than the total population, the net effects of the revised weighting were slightly lower median incomes and higher estimates of the poverty population overall for 1983. The estimates of the number of persons of Spanish origin below the poverty level increased by 392,000

77/ The text of appendix C is reprinted from U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. Money Income and Poverty Status of Families and Persons in the United States: 1984. Series P-60, No. 149. Issued Aug. 27, 1985. p. 4 and 5.

following the revised procedures; however, their poverty rate declined slightly from 28.4 percent to 28.1 percent. The median income for males for Spanish origin was 3.9 percent lower based on the revised procedures.

TABLE C.1. Number of Persons and Persons Below the Poverty Level Based on Original and Revised Weighting Procedures: 1983 (Numbers in thousands. Persons as of March 1984)

Race or Spanish origin	Revised	Original	Difference revised minus original
All Persons			
Total	231,700	231,612	88
White	197,496	197,671	-175
Black	27,678	27,668	10
Spanish origin a/	16,544	14,938	1,606
Persons Below the Poverty Level			
Total	35,515	35,266	249
White	24,189	23,974	215
Black	9,888	9,885	3
Spanish origin a/	4,641	4,249	392
Percent Below the Poverty Level			
Total	15.3	15.2	0.1
White	12.2	12.1	0.1
Black	35.7	35.7	---
Spanish origin a/	28.1	28.4	-0.3

a/ Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

TABLE C.2. Median Income of Families and Persons Based on Original and Revised Weighting Procedures: 1983

Characteristics	Revised	Original	Percent Difference
Families			
Total	$24,549	$24,580	-0.1
White	25,719	25,757	-0.1
Black	14,532	14,506	0.2
Spanish origin a/	16,907	16,956	-0.3
Persons			
Males, total	14,590	14,631	-0.3
White	15,359	15,401	-0.3
Black	8,989	8,967	0.2
Spanish origin a/	10,841	11,278	-3.9
Females, total	6,303	6,319	-0.3
White	6,403	6,421	-0.3
Black	5,542	5,543	---
Spanish origin a/	5,371	5,402	-0.6

a/ Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

APPENDIX D: COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL AND REVISED 1983 CHILD POVERTY DATA

The revised weighting procedures used by the Census Bureau in its August 1985 report on poverty increased the 1983 number of poor children as follows: whites, up one percent; blacks, up less than one-half percent; and Hispanics, up seven percent. The revisions resulted in a slight increase in the poverty rate for white children and slight decreases in the poverty rates for black and Hispanic children. However, none of the changes in poverty rates was statistically significant. (See table D.1.)

The CRS report did not incorporate these 1983 revisions, which are based on different weighting procedures from those applied to the 1975-1982 data examined in the study and, thus, would make comparisons difficult, and which are not on the 1983 public use data tape.

The Census Bureau noted that the change in procedure would affect comparisons across years and said that "caution should be used when comparing current estimates with those for earlier years." 78/

78/ Bureau of the Census. Money Income and Poverty Status of Families and Persons in the United States: 1984. Series P-60, No. 149. p. 35.

Table D.1. Children a/ Poor in 1983: Original and Revised Data b/

	Number poor (thousands)		Poverty rate (percent)	
	Original	Revised	Original	Revised
Hispanic children				
Total	2,105	2,251	37.8	37.7
In female-headed families	956	1,018	70.6	70.6
In male-present families	1,150	1,233	27.3	27.2
White children				
Total	8,456	8,556	16.9	17.0
In female-headed families	3,356	3,399	46.9	47.2
In male-present families	5,100	5,157	11.9	11.6
Black children				
Total	4,258	4,273	46.3	46.2
In female-headed families	3,185	3,187	68.5	68.3
In male-present families	1,073	1,085	23.6	23.7
All children c/				
Total	13,326	13,449	21.7	21.8
In female-headed families	6,709	6,758	55.4	55.5
In male-present families	6,617	6,691	13.4	13.5

a/ Related children.

b/ Original data from Census Bureau. Characteristics of the Population Below the Poverty Level: 1983. Series P-60, No. 147. February 1985. Revised data from Census Bureau. Money Income and Poverty Status of Families and Persons in the United States: 1984. Series P-60, No. 149. August 1985.

c/ Includes other non-whites.